

صحنه من الامل

Wednesday April 3 1996

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# The Guardian INTERNATIONAL

Printed in London, Manchester, Frankfurt and Roubaix

NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR 46.517

Jack Klaff's diary of a conception

## In vitro vivo



G2 with European weather

Isaac Mizrahi reveals all

## New York unzipped

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Society

## Real World Coalition agenda for a better future

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# Woolwich chief resigns over expenses 'discrepancies'



Peter Robinson

**Margaret Hughes, Patrick Donovan and Ian King**

**T**HE Chief Executive of the Woolwich Building Society has left the company after the discovery of tens of thousands of pounds worth of "discrepancies" on his expense account, it emerged last night.

Peter Robinson, who earned £300,000 a year and was provided with a chauffeur-driven Jaguar XJ6, quit after being shown findings of an internal audit inquiry.

Investigating accountants are understood to

have discovered items of personal expenditure claimed as business expenses.

Mr Robinson, who denounced as "carpetbaggers" people who attempt to make quick profits by investing in societies in expectation of a flotation, was found by the accountants to have charged items to the society.

They said he charged the purchase of a Range Rover as a second car to the society without authorisation, claimed home improvements and other unspecified domestic maintenance bills from the building society; and charged his gar-

dening bills to the society.

The departure of the Chief Executive, who lives in Westerham in Kent, comes as a huge embarrassment to the society because he was heading its plans for a £3 billion stock market flotation.

The internal audit was ordered as part of the society's plans to ensure that no embarrassing financial details would be uncovered when outside advisers were brought in to prepare an exhaustive flotation prospectus.

The Woolwich last night insisted that its plans for a stock market listing were still on course. It plans to

float in August next year in a move which will give more than 3.5 million investors a one-off handout worth £300 apiece.

The Woolwich said that the Building Societies Commission and Bank of England were kept fully informed of the developments.

The chairman of the Woolwich, Sir Brian Jenkins, said that it would not be "appropriate to comment further at this stage."

The normal business of the society is entirely unaffected. The Society's assets and members' funds remain unimpaired.

Sources at Schroders, the

Woolwich's City adviser, said the alleged discrepancies had emerged in an internal audit late last week while Mr Robinson was on holiday.

They said the decision that Mr Robinson would have to go was only made late yesterday afternoon.

Mr Robinson, who could not be contacted last night, is a well-known figure in Bexleyheath, the south-east London suburb where he grew up and where the society is based.

He is still a playing member of the MCC, and has captained both Bexleyheath and Bromley cricket clubs. He is also a member

of the Lords Taverners, the fund-raising body that organises cricket-based events, and president of the Kent Cricket League.

Mr Robinson, a fitness fanatic who regularly used the staff gym at the Woolwich's head office, was educated at grammar school at nearby Erith, and on leaving, took a first job with Castrol, which enabled him to concentrate on playing cricket.

He joined the Woolwich in 1963, as a graduate trainee, but only expected to stay there for a couple of years while he considered other career moves.

He is expected to be

replaced by John Stewart, operations director at the Woolwich.

In a recent interview with a newspaper he said: "Some people have said this [stock market] conversion is an ego trip for me."

"People might say I've got a big ego but I've got two brothers who are multi-millionaires and my sister in Canada is a successful dress designer."

He famously dismissed complaints from small investors, refused a windfall share, by saying: "I have no concern about not enfranchising carpetbaggers."

City Notebook, page 11

# Major seals Euro deal

Michael White Political Editor

**J**OHNSON Major last night pulled the Conservative Party back from a potentially fatal split over the proposed single currency referendum when he secured an understanding with his recalcitrant Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke, that will allow the Cabinet to settle the controversy this morning.

What may prove crucial to the deal is that the formal status of a referendum will be as a manifesto pledge, whenever the election is called. It is a formula urged on Mr Major by the rightwing 92 Group last night. It would be invoked only if Britain decides to join an emerging Euro-currency during the 1997-2002 parliament.

Significantly, today's discussion of what is technically the Foreign Secretary, Malcolm Rifkind's consultative paper will occur only when ministers go into a political cabinet session. Mr Rifkind's final draft was being sent to ministers late last night.

The Tory chairman, Brian Mawhinney, hopes the long-promised commitment would take the sails out of the billionaire financier Sir James Goldsmith's Referendum Party which has threatened to run candidates against opponents of a referendum. It may still do so if Mr Major's terms disappoint Sir James.

After Tony Blair led taunts in the Commons — and asked Mr Major to "put your government out of its misery" with a general election — Labour later claimed that the Prime Minister had wobbled under pressure yet again. "It is paralysis," said Mr Blair.

Immediately unclear were the exact terms under which the second British plebiscite over Europe would take place and the extent to which they were concessions to Mr Clarke's concern that the com-

mitment could prove more trouble than it is worth unless the details are pinned down.

But Clarke supporters confirmed that the Chancellor's worries had been "settled to his satisfaction". An announcement is expected today.

Central to it, Tory MPs predicted, is likely to be the principle that a referendum campaign would only occur after legislation to abolish the independent pound — with voters invited to endorse Parliament's decision as in 1975 — and that collective responsibility would be imposed so that all cabinet members back the agreed policy.

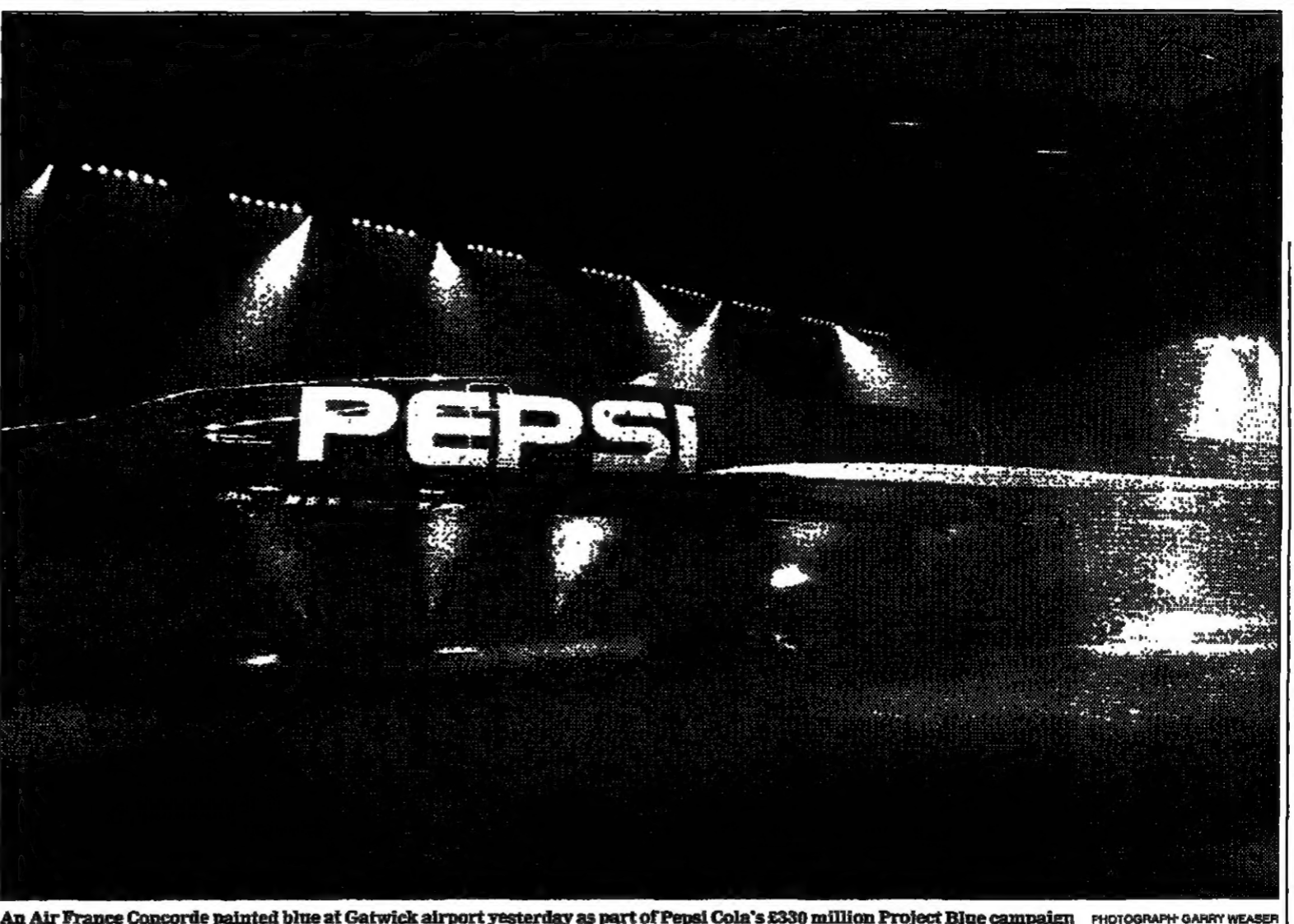
With speculation rising at Westminster that the Prime Minister would have to abandon his hope of resolving the dispute before tonight's two-week Easter break, the two men hammered out their differences before appearing together in defiantly cheerful mood at Question Time.

No one meeting sealed the compromise and hints in the corridors that Michael Heseltine, now an arch-loyal deputy prime minister, had brokered the deal were being treated warily.

The two men are credited by pro-European Tory MPs with having forced Mr Major, after an embarking pressure on the right to rule out a British entry to a single currency in the lifetime of the next parliament.

Mr Clarke, increasingly fed up with the anti-European stance of his party, signalled to some colleagues that he just might resign — a fearful blow to Mr Major. To add to yesterday's pressure one backbench pro-European, Sir Julian Critchley, announced that he would vote against a referendum and would think "long and hard" about how to vote on a no-confidence motion.

Welcoming the news of a referendum last night, John Redwood said: "It is very important that the British people should be asked before the pound is abolished. This would be such a fundamental change in the way we govern ourselves."



An Air France Concorde painted blue at Gatwick airport yesterday as part of Pepsi Cola's £330 million Project Blue campaign. PHOTOGRAPH GARRY WEASER

## Purple prose in cola war

Roger Cowe and Edward Pilkington

**T**HE stars were on eloquent form. "This is really hip, and it's great to be a part of the family," said supermodel Claudia Schiffer, while Andre Agassi, fresh from a Miami tennis tournament, hailed his relationship with the promoters as "one of the greatest I've established in my life."

But two questions were left puzzling the 400 journalists flown to Gatwick airport from around the world. Why did neither of the superstars show any inclination to drink the sweet fizzy liquid all the razzmatazz was about? And how much was the third celebrity rolled out getting from the sponsors? "Guys, I'm not going to tell you — are you out of your minds?" retorted the model Cindy Crawford.

But money, of course, was not the point. The point was that blue — far from being the fuzzy hue associated with police uniforms and Tory biddies — is cool.

Picasso would have been proud of the lengths to which Pepsi went yesterday to show

turn to page 2, column 3

## Public suspects beef cover-up

Poll shows few believe Government

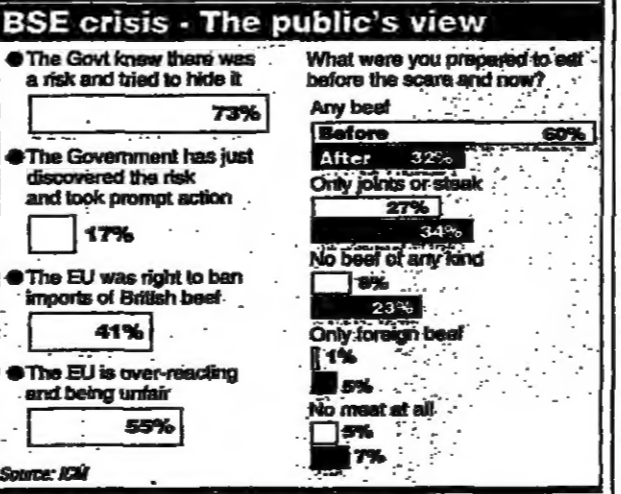
Martin Linton and Stephen Bates in Luxembourg

**N**EARLY three out of four people believe the Government knew BSE was a risk before the present scare and tried to hide it, according to an ICM poll for the Guardian. Only one person in six believes the Government's claim that it took prompt action as soon as it discovered the risk.

The poll shows how far government credibility has suffered over BSE, and how ready people are to take the most cynical view of ministers' actions in the crisis.

The number of people prepared to eat any form of beef has dropped from nearly two thirds of the population to less than one third. Another third is prepared to eat joints or steaks, which do not include the offal blamed for carrying BSE.

The remaining third divides between those who will not eat beef in any form (23 per cent), meat of any kind (7 per cent) or only foreign beef (5 per cent).



of last week's ban on exports. As the talks dragged towards a third day, a weary Philippe Vasseur, France's agriculture minister, sighed: "We are not going to leave until we have finished."

Douglas Hogg, the Agriculture Secretary, was under pressure to produce fuller proposals to curtail the risk of BSE on top of the offer to slaughter up to 4.7 million cattle, as tough negotiations continued over the levels of compensation that may be paid to farmers. Other member states want more comprehensive slaughter plans, including the destruction of entire herds if a single case of BSE is diagnosed.

The Government was bluntly told that not enough was being done to meet consumer fears. The other agriculture ministers and the European Commission, already deeply critical of what they see as Britain's arrogance in demanding compensation while being slow to suggest measures to restore confidence, were in no mood to offer extensive compensation.

ICM interviewed 1,011 adults over 15 countrywide, on Saturday March 30 and Sunday March 31. Interviews were conducted across the country by phone and results were weighted to be representative of all adults.

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**4.3% A.B.V.**  
**100% T.L.C.**

**CHARLES WELLS**

**BOMBARDIER PREMIUM BITTER**

BREWED BY THE CHARLES WELLS FAMILY BREWERY, BEDFORDSHIRE. EST. 1876.

Sketch

Rush of memory on rising risks



Simon Hoggart

IN Easter 1916, a group of armed poets, writers and various nutcases led an uprising in Dublin which, till recently, left Ireland backward, poverty-stricken, priest-ridden, violent and divided. Their heirs are the Provisional IRA, and though they now incline more towards the Marxist-Leninist rather than the Padraig Pearse school of rhetoric, they still can spot a good anniversary when they see it coming. Not so our own Government, which had 80 years to remember and still let the Easter Rising slip its mind. Now they have suddenly noticed. (How did it happen? "Err, minister, it could trouble you, the Irish revolt... "Yes, they certainly do, Humphrey, but if you'll excuse me I've got to finish my boxes in time for Easter.") Since it has now crossed the Government's mind that the IRA might choose to mark the occasion with a little festive terrorism, it fixed on the idea of a new bill which would widen the scope of the Prevention of Terrorism Act. The House also upriseth this week, so that if the bill were to be ready for the bombings, it had to go through all stages—second reading, committee, report and third reading—in a single day. Most bills get several months, and they're still inadequately debated. This one was scheduled for exactly eight hours. Naturally the Labour Party's home affairs front bench—those doughty champions of middle class people whose civil liberties are not actually in peril—were supporting the Government. This is because they are scared of being thought soft on terrorism. Such is the way our political discourse has become demasned; you cannot stop an

important bill being rushed through in a day because, a year from now, it might return to haunt you in an election sound-bite. So they started with a debate on the guillotine (we were to spend an hour longer debating how long the debate should last than on the debate of the committee stage of the bill itself). Let me give you a flavour of the guillotine motion. Clause 2, sub-clause (2), is probably the snappiest bit: "For the purpose of bringing to a conclusion any proceedings which have previously been brought to a conclusion, the Chairman or Speaker shall forthwith put the following Questions (but no others)—(a) any Question proposed from the Chair... "I shall speak you the rest, except to say that the motion reaches its throbbing climax in Clause 4, sub-clause (1) paragraph (a) ("... if that Question is for the amendment of a Lord Amendment (the Speaker) shall then put forthwith the Question of any further Amendment..."). Ann Taylor, for Labour, muttered and murmured and said she hoped the House would not be treated in such a cavalier fashion in future. Fat chance. It was left to the Liberal Alan Beith, who looks like the kind of bank manager we had when we had proper bank managers, to make the only real, serious speech against the guillotine—not so much supporting civil liberties as suggesting we might need more than eight hours talk before they are whisked away. "This is Government by decree," he said. The Government seems to think that it could not get it wrong, yet "even the finest Governments and the finest ministers and the finest civil servants can make mistakes". "There are always good reasons for doing a bad thing," the Government is saying, "but it is the police and the public who will have to pay the price." After this bravura defence of ancient freedoms against a Government which can't even consult a Letis diary list of World National Days, did the Labour front bench boldly join Beith in the lobbies? Don't be silly.

Review

City in mourning, yeah, yeah, yeah

Robert Clark Live from the Vinyl Junkyard Bluecoat Gallery, Liverpool. NO MATTER how nauseated the good people of Liverpool must be by endless Beatles pilgrimages and, worse, by the self-conscious Scousery of performance poets like Adrian Henri and Roger McGough, the city still thrives on an undeniable taproom culture of kitsch pop wit. What better city therefore in which to mourn the demise of vinyl, brought about by the ubiquity of the designer CD? And what better gallery than the Bluecoat, a thriving arts centre bang in the centre of the city. After all, it can proudly boast an art-pop history that includes hosting a 'Yoko One' happening in the glory days of 1967 and mounting Captain Beefheart's first painting exhibition in 1972. Live from the Vinyl Junkyard is a small but in-the-know congregation of pop-nostalgic commissions. The show is capable of talking all its visitors, at least those over 30, back to their adolescent infatuations with the LP—an infatuation that was, of course, inspired not only by the music contained within each circle of black plastic, but by the object itself. Vinyl, after all, is black as a Leonard Cohen lyric. It can become as warped as the Velvet Underground and as scratched as Sid Vicious after a punch-up down the pub. It even smells—flesh-stuff compared to the slick state-of-the-art CD. One of the most popular and

fascinating elements of this exhibition is a trieze of framed LP covers. I spotted such archeological gems of raffiness as Johnny's Little Yo-Yo (subtitled Spicy Patty Songs), The Best Of The Singing Postman and Russ Conway's Songs to Sing In The Bath. The one I most fancied nicking, however, was the cover of Down to Earth, showing the adorable Eartha Kitt reclining in sex kitten mode on a tiger skin rug. As for the art, some of it's good, but not as good, of course, as the material that inspired it. Jane Sanders has built a little tomb-womb bedsit shrine called Elvis Evils Lives. On the floor a neat arrangement of fag-ends sadly spells out the king's name. John Campbell (from the group It's Immaterial) and Henry Priestman (ex The Christians) present Baby '96, a disco installation including a tape loop spinning through the word Baby edited from 96 pop songs. An artist's statement explains "Why Baby? Because it's the ever popular sugar pink, vanilla glue that is so much the tool of the songwriter's trade." Most haunting as a self-sufficient piece of art installation is Philip Jack's Off the Record, a stack of 80 dingy Danstie record players, each repeating a stuck-in-the-groove pop fragment. Yeah, yeah, yeah. It is a fitting lament for the passing of so much authentic plastic passion. Live from the Vinyl Junkyard, Bluecoat Gallery, Liverpool, until April 20

BBC invests £13m to aid the British film industry

Andrew Culf Media Correspondent THE BBC yesterday announced a £13 million investment in 11 films, four for cinema release and seven for television, to go into production this spring. They feature stars including Josely Richardson, Paul McGann and Steve Coogan,

and writers including Hanif Kureishi and Troy Kennedy Martin. The BBC is keen to establish a reputation as a supporter of the British film industry as strong as that achieved by Channel 4, which has enjoyed huge box office successes with Four Weddings and a Funeral, The Madness of King George, and Trainspotting.

Backbenchers defy leadership over stop-and-search powers being rushed through Parliament Labour MPs rebel on IRA bill

Patrick Wintour, Chief Political Correspondent THIRTY-one Labour backbenchers staged a series of rebellions last night in protest at emergency stop and search anti-terrorist legislation being rushed through the Commons with the support of the Labour front bench. They began by opposing the imposition of a Government guillotine—designed to give the police extra powers under the Prevention of Terrorism Act before Easter—in one extraordinary Commons sitting lasting only six hours yesterday.

The guillotine was passed by 256 votes to 44 with the Liberal Democrats, led by Alan Beith, joining the Labour dissidents. Some Labour MPs warned shadow home secretary Jack Straw that he was letting down democracy and the cause of civil liberties by failing to oppose the guillotine. Labour officials subsequently played down the rebellion, saying it compared with the revolt last month when 27 Labour MPs voted against the renewal of the Prevention of the Terrorism Act in defiance of the leadership call to abstain. The bill will go to the Lords today in time to reach the statute book before Easter.

Home Secretary Michael Howard, eager to maintain bipartisan support, refused to make political capital out of the Labour rebellion, but a senior Tory source said: "This is quite a disgraceful rebellion by these Labour MPs. This is a measure to save lives. It goes to prove that Tony Blair doesn't have control over a fair proportion of his own backbench MPs." Privately, some shadow cabinet members have expressed deep doubts about the contents and the timing of the legislation, but Mr Howard insisted he had only finally decided to seek the extra powers last Thursday following discussions with the anti-terrorist squad.

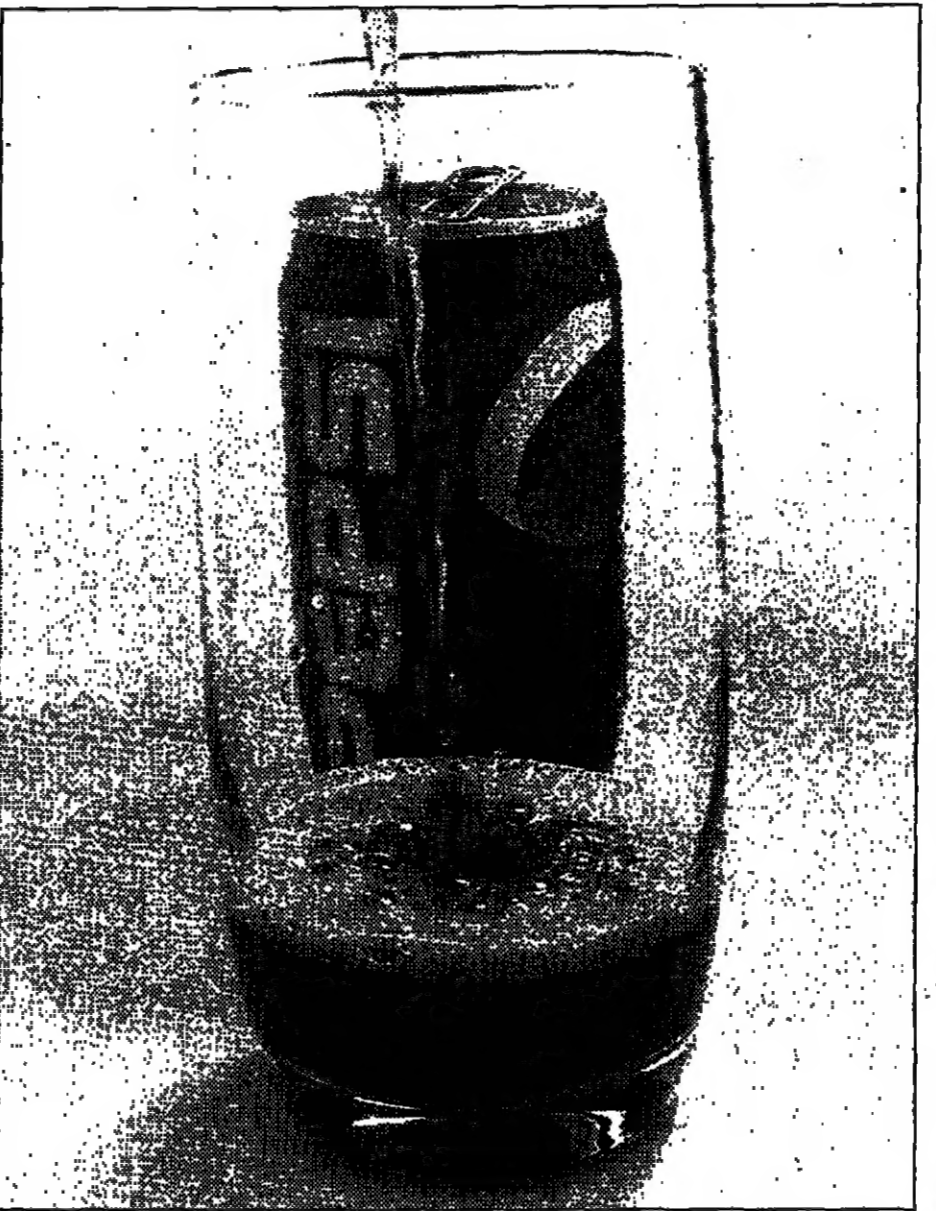
The bill gives police powers to stop and search pedestrians without reasonable suspicion for up to 28 days in designated areas, powers to search classes of non-residential property, such as all lock-up garages in an area, to search all individuals and property in a cordoned-off area, to search unattended freight vehicles in ports and to impose parking restrictions. Most of the powers have been in force in Northern Ireland for some time. Kevin McNamara, the former shadow northern Ireland secretary, was one of the leading Labour rebels saying: "It is quite outrageous that here we have very serious incursions into people's normal

civil liberties and we're only going to have two hours to discuss them." Mr Straw insisted the bill, suddenly published by Mr Howard on Monday, represented "no gratuitous erosion of the liberty of the subject" and was "proportionate to the threat". He said the bill was bound to cause some inconvenience, but this was justified by the greater security to the individual. But he added that the whole package should be withdrawn if peace is secured in Northern Ireland. Mr Howard appears to envisage keeping the powers to combat international terrorism. The Labour front bench also demanded that parlia-

ment be given powers to review the measures, particularly the new powers to stop and search pedestrians. Mr Straw said a disproportionate number of black people were being stopped under ordinary stop and search powers. In Greater London, blacks and Asians accounted for 60 per cent of the 180,000 stops last year. Mr Howard refused to give details of any threats the IRA this Easter, and the Home Office played down suggestions that the IRA might strike on the 80th anniversary of the Easter Rising. Leader comment and Letters, page 8; Martin Kettle's Commentary, page 9

Purple prose in phoney cola war

continued from page 1 the colour's value, as part of "Project Blue", its \$500 million (\$330 million) campaign to relaunch itself against its arch rival, the unconstructively red Coca-Cola. Air France was persuaded to change its tricolor into a monocolour when it painted a Concorde blue. The Daily Mail printed itself on blue paper for the day in a deal believed to have cost Pepsi \$1 million—riling the Sun into denouncing the drink's relaunch as an unmitigated flop. Even the Russians turned blue with cosmans in the MTR space station pictured with a Pepsi banner. The company's UK managing director, Simon Calver, described the occasion as "one of the most significant moments in the history of Pepsi", and promised the move would "fundamentally alter the international soft drink atmosphere". One of his US bosses, senior vice president John Swanhaus, was less restrained. He said Pepsi's new look "takes new claim to the next millennium". The change followed two years of design work which had contemplated 3,000 options in the search for "a revolutionary transformation" aimed at building Pepsi's image with young people. "We are building an unbreakable bond with the teens," Mr Swanhaus said. "This is the first step to capturing the hearts and



New can, same drink, as Pepsi launches a new round in the cola wars

minds of young people around the world." Pepsi has been trying to do that for years, with stars such as Madonna and Michael Jackson proclaiming that Pepsi was "the choice of a new generation". Yet it still trails Coke in most countries.

New Labour will be dismayed to hear that Pepsi's research among young people apparently discovered that they believe the future is blue, not red. Blue is seen as "modern, on the move, fun, dynamic, exciting, and above all, more refreshing," according to

Mr Swanhaus. As a result, the familiar red, white and blue cans disappeared from store shelves in Britain and 19 other countries on Monday night. By the end of next year customers in 180 countries will be drinking from the new blue can—except the

Big change of image

BT In 1991, British Telecom revamped their old, pre-privatisation Post Office look with a change in logo, workwear and image, at a cost of £50 million. Their logo went from being a white 'T' on a yellow background to today's blue and grey plus the piper symbol. BT is delighted with the changes, but some designers have been less laudatory. A 1991 re-think of the logo to "lots more green and a slight change in shape to the shield" gave the same look to 22,000 service stations worldwide—some of which still carried the Mobil name—after a year-long corporate identity review which cost £1 million, and a further £200-300 million to implement. BRITISH AIRWAYS In 1984, BA decided the way to compete in an increasingly competitive air travel market was to change its colour scheme. Top designers Landor Associates were charged with finding the new look. The RAF-style post grey, midnight blue and speedwing red took two years and £25 million to put into the fleet and into lounges. A public outcry when Coca Cola changed product flavour in April 1985 in North America forced the conglomerate to reverse its identity. By July that year, consumers were given the choice to drink the old formula, called Coca Cola classic or the new—simply called Coke (now Coke II). This saved the firm's reputation and according to a spokeswoman, "Rekindled people's love for Coca Cola".



fer it to Coke, but which also show that Virgin Cola is preferred to both. Coca-Cola remained aloof, looking forward to this summer's sponsorship of the European football championships and the Olympics keeping its name on TV screens and its brands in more fridges than its competitors. "We are not focussed on the competition, we are focusing on fans and consumers, not celebrities," said a spokeswoman. But Coca-Cola will welcome the publicity. In a private interview Mr Swanhaus admitted that the cola wars are phoney, aimed at keeping both sides in the news. "The cola wars are good for the business, they keep up interest in the product," he said. Oh, and he confirmed the drink inside the can remains brown, fizzy, and the same taste as before.

Cola giants battle to slake a global thirst

Roger Cowe THE world is steadily consuming more fizzy drinks, although most countries are well behind Mexico and the USA. Cola favours lead the charge, but in Britain the battle between Coke and Pepsi has been disturbed in the last couple of years by the launch of supermarket's own-label products. Sainsbury, with its Classic brand in a Coke lookalike can, began the own-label revolution two years ago, and reaped the biggest reward, eating into the more expensive top brands. Tesco joined in with its support for Pepsi Cola, and other supermarket chains followed with their own quality brands. The leaders have responded with higher marketing bud-

gets. Coca-Cola doubled its advertising budget last year, while Pepsi put millions behind the launch of its new sugar-free product Pepsi Max. Helped by two hot summers, the market reached new heights. Cola drinks account for half the UK fizzy drink market. British consumption last year equalled 20 two-litre bottles per person—a third more than five years ago. It remains unclear who has how much of the market. Pepsi has been fighting back in the UK from a pretty low base, thanks to a much-improved performance from its bottler, Britvic, and its success in persuading young men to drink Pepsi Max when they wouldn't be seen dead with other diet drinks. Pepsi claims its market share has grown by 1 per cent

a year this decade, and aims to double sales by the year 2000. But Coke disputes these figures, pointing out that regular Coca-Cola still outsells regular Pepsi by a mile. Coca-Cola, through its joint venture with Cadbury Schweppes, has a strong base in vending machines in confectioners and sports venues. Pepsi, on the other hand, benefits in pubs and clubs from joint ownership of Britvic with the brewers Bass, Allied Domecq and Whitbread. Pepsi believes it has one strong weapon still in the locker. Unlike Coke, which is a single-product company, Pepsi owns Walkers crisps, Pizza Hut and Kentucky Fried Chicken. It is planning to capitalise on these links in new vending machines and special catering deals.

Return of Poland's most famous electrician

Sanchia Berg in Gdansk THEROUGE the tinted glass Mercedes, Lech Walesa smiled at the scores of foreign journalists assembled at the Gdansk shipyard gates. Once again, the yard had attracted the world's attention thanks to its most famous worker. Mr Walesa's life was turning full circle, moving from the presidential palace back to his old job as an electrician. Mr Walesa, age 52, said financial pressure forced him back. "I've got no money to live on, and so I have to work," he said. The car and two bodyguards are provided by the state; he said he has no income of his own. "It just cannot be that a former president has no means of support. What is he supposed to do, become a barman or something?" Mr Walesa, who led Solidarity to vic-

tory over communist rule in 1989, told Reuters on Monday. Since he lost the presidential election last November, Mr Walesa has been unemployed. There is no special pension for ex-presidents in Poland. Mr Walesa is being pursued by the Polish inland revenue: a court has secured his home in Gdansk, saying he owes tax on \$1 million (£650,000) he received from a Hollywood studio in 1989 for the rights to his life story. Some shipyard workers, arriving for the dawn shift, were cynical. They said to believe Mr Walesa needed his old job, which pays only £200 a month. They saw his return as a publicity stunt. And on what was supposed to be his first day back at work, Mr Walesa showed little interest in fixing fuses. Instead, he gave a press conference, admitting he might not be able to fit in regular shifts with his other commitments.



Ex-president Lech Walesa: have screwdriver, will travel

Disability Today advertisement. Text: Disability Today is the monthly television programme for disabled people, their families and carers, in fact anyone who has an interest in disability issues. The programme provides information about leisure, work, education, benefits and current issues in an accessible and entertaining format. Programmes are screened on BBC2 at 4.30am during April, May and June, so get your video machines ready! Check Radio Times & Ceefax for details. Logos for Learning, ba agency, and SCOPE.

سكيا من الالصل



Bottomley snubs gaming industry as derelict attraction in east London wins grant

Pools firms lose out in lottery plea

Andrew Culf  
Media Correspondent

VIRGINIA Bottomley, the National Heritage Secretary, ruled out significant concessions to the pools companies and betting industry yesterday to help them compete with the National Lottery.

She said that creation of a level playing field by giving bookmakers and pools promoters the same advantages as Camelot could imperil the future success of the lottery.

Mrs Bottomley rejected a plea by bookmakers that they should be allowed to take side-bets on which numbers would be drawn in the lottery. They have lobbied for the change to recoup their losses following the experience of Irish bookmakers who found the introduction of Lucky Numbers stabilised their declining industry.

Mrs Bottomley told the National Heritage select committee she would take an "enormous amount of convincing" that it was appropriate. She said it could detract from lottery ticket sales, of which 28 per cent went to the good causes and a further 12 per cent to the Treasury.

"That is 40 per cent to the public good, which is not something that betting shops can offer."

Mrs Bottomley denied the decline in the pools industry, which has seen more than 2,200 jobs disappear in 18 months, was entirely attributable to the lottery.

She said she would consider any necessary modifications to help the gaming industry, but added: "My position is, I wouldn't want to do so if there was a serious risk of jeopardising the success of the lottery."

An additional mid-week lottery draw was effectively ruled out because she did not see any need to encourage new games. "With the participation rates that we have, I would need some convincing that there is a huge untapped potential there for more people to be drawn in," she said.

Mrs Bottomley also announced two new National Heritage Memorial fund awards. The British Museum's collections and studies centre would get £8 million of lottery funding, to be matched by the same amount from the Private Finance Initiative (PFI).

The Adams Building in Nottingham's Lace Market would get £3 million of lottery funding, to be matched by £5 million from the PFI.



Roland Jeffery, campaign director of the Friends of Christ Church, outside the east London church which achieved notoriety through a satanic bestseller. PHOTOGRAPH BY HAMILTON WEST

£2.4m grant for 'notorious' church

Madeleine Bunting  
Religious Affairs Editor

AFTER nearly 40 years of neglect, Christ Church in east London, masterpiece of 18th century architect Nicholas Hawksmoor, has been awarded the Heritage Lottery Fund's biggest grant yet to a parish church.

The forbidding church in Spitalfields, closed and virtually derelict since 1967, attracts thousands of architecture students and visitors a year — thanks partly to its notoriety after novelist Peter Ackroyd based his bestseller *Hawksmoor* — a lurid tale of satanic child sacrifice — around it.

The £2.4 million grant announced yesterday has been topped up with £500,000 from the Monument Trust, one of the Sainsbury Family Trusts.

Fundraising for the church — which has no floor, little heating and needs major external repairs — has been hampered by its location just outside the City, making it ineligible for the large historic endowments of the Church of England which maintain the City churches. The small parish which effectively camps out in the ruin struggles to pay even the insurance bill.

"We're delighted; it's broken the back of the problem," said Roland Jeffery, campaign director of the Friends of Christ Church, who have raised £1.2 million since 1976.

In the 1970s, the Diocese of London planned to demolish Christ Church, but the plan mobilised Hawksmoor devotees in the parish, a retired professor and his reputation has since been through a revival.

The church is Hawks-

moor's most celebrated work which, according to the Heritage Lottery Fund, is "a masterpiece of European architecture". Of the six churches he built, all in London, only three survive, and Christ Church's cavernous underground vaults now house a hostel for the homeless.

"We need another £120,000 to reach the total needed," said Mr Jeffery. "We plan to put back the wooden Georgian galleries and restore the organ, which is one of the country's finest Georgian organs but is currently unusable." The church is used for concerts and hosts the Spitalfields Festival.

The Heritage Lottery Fund celebrated its first anniversary by announcing £16.3 million grants for 22 projects yesterday, including major awards to the British Museum and the National Maritime Museum at Greenwich, writes *Maeve Kennedy*.

Other beneficiaries include a collection of yachts in Norfolk, the Mayfair house where Handel composed the *Messiah*, an exhibition in Berkeley, Gloucestershire, to mark the centenary of Jenner's first smallpox vaccination, and a lead mine in Nenthead, Cumbria.

The £2.1 million grant to the British Museum, towards a £28 million project, will enable it to combine four present offices by converting an old ordnance office on New Oxford Street — allowing the public to see many objects normally kept in closed stores.

But the largest grant, another £2 million, for the £11.8 million for the National Maritime Museum's Neptune Court Project.

Ruling opens way for actions by 30 victims abused while in council children's homes

£225,000 for 'tortured' women

Clare Dyer  
Legal Correspondent

TWO women subjected to abuse in children's homes run by convicted paedophile Frank Beck were awarded a total of £225,000 damages yesterday, in a last case which could open the way for more than 30 similar claims.

Insurers for Leicestershire county council, which during the hearing admitted failing to protect victims, could face damages claims running into millions of pounds. The council was in charge of three homes at which the ex-marine and members of his staff carried out a 13-year reign of terror until 1986.

Debra Barry, aged 31, and Jennifer Lesiakowski, 36,

were among seven of Beck's victims who launched actions against the council. The other five reached out-of-court settlements.

Both women were abused under the guise of what Beck called "regression therapy". He was given five life sentences in 1981 and died in prison in 1994.

Mr Justice Potts awarded Miss Barry £50,000 for pain and suffering, £10,000 for loss of earnings and £20,000 for further therapy. Miss Lesiakowski was awarded £20,000 for pain and suffering, £40,000 for loss of earnings and £25,000 for therapy.

The judge said they were cases of the greatest severity.

After the hearing Billhar Singh, the solicitor who co-ordinated the first seven cases, said he was preparing an-

other 30 claims. "This award recognises what the plaintiffs have suffered. In addition they have, of course, had to endure the trauma of the trial itself," he said.

The High Court in Nottingham heard how Miss Lesiakowski transferred to the Poplars children's home after Beck visited her in a mental hospital when she was aged 15. She agreed to go after he told her there would be no rules and no locked doors.

She was subjected to sexual, physical and emotional abuse. Miss Lesiakowski, who had known since the age of 11 that she was a lesbian, was repeatedly sexually assaulted by Beck and his staff, who told her she "needed a man". She eventually left the home after taking paracetamol and whisky. She had said the only way

to escape was in a coffin or by taking an overdose.

Since then she has gone on drink and drug binges, and suffered fits of anger and from flashbacks. The judge said the word "torture" was appropriate to describe what had happened to her.

After the hearing Miss Lesiakowski criticised the size of her award: "I had my own figure in mind, but I don't think anybody could put a figure on what I went through."

Miss Barry went to the Poplars in June 1980, aged 15, after problems at home. At most immediately she was accompanied by staff at all times and was washed, dressed, bathed and fed by them. They gave her baby bottles to drink from and a Honey Monster toy to carry. She would also sit on their

knees and be read children's stories as part of her "regression therapy".

She suffers from depression, dislike of physical contact with her partner, difficulty in controlling her anger, inability to show affection, flashbacks and a tendency to revert to baby-talk.

Miss Barry said: "The judge has been very fair, and I'm happy with the judgment. It has been hell for the last five years for me and my family."

A council spokesman said: "The purpose of the trial was to resolve important issues which could not be settled by negotiation between the parties. Following the conclusion of this, the council and its insurers would like the 30 or so remaining claims to be resolved as quickly as possible."

News in brief

Freed Briton back from Thailand

ROBERT Lock, freed last week from a Thai prison, denied yesterday he had supplied heroin to a woman teacher serving a 25-year sentence for drug smuggling. Mr Lock, aged 30, who spent three years in jail in Thailand before being cleared of drug offences, said the certainty of his innocence had given him the strength to survive the ordeal. He was speaking at the home of his mother Lynda in Holbeach, Lincolnshire, after returning to Britain. He was arrested three years ago in Bangkok with teacher Sandra Gregory, from Sowerby Bridge, West Yorkshire. He was cleared of all charges this year, but Ms Gregory was convicted of heroin trafficking. She had claimed Mr Lock gave her the drugs, but he said yesterday: "I refute those allegations. I am innocent. I haven't had time for it all to sink in at the moment. I just plan to relax and get used to being back in England."

Last protesters leave bypass

THE last protesters living on the route of the Newbury bypass were evicted yesterday — 85 days, 29 camps and 788 arrests after clearance work began. After bailiffs removed 12 protesters from a tree at the Castle Wood Camp, Andrew Wood, of the Third Battle of Newbury group, said: "It was very sad, but I think a lot of people are looking optimistically at what can be achieved in the future. A lot of people will go home for the Easter holidays and come back regenerated."

The Highways Agency estimates that about 15 per cent of the route still needs to be cleared. The clearance work was only a week behind schedule, according to the agency, but security costs were £1.5 million — three times as much as expected.

Man held over 1991 murder

A MAN arrested in Liverpool was being questioned yesterday about the murder of a 13-year-old girl whose body was found in Belfast nearly five years after she disappeared. The 24-year-old man, from Ulster, was flown back to Belfast from the mainland by police.

He was arrested last night within hours of the discovery of the decomposed body of Sonia Forsythe rolled up in carpet in a coal bunker at the rear of a house in the Shankill Road area close to where she was last seen in June 1991.

The RUC carried out forensic tests in one of the flats two weeks ago, and faced criticism yesterday for not finding the body then. Sonia's family moved away from the street after she disappeared and were too distressed to comment yesterday. They had hoped that she was still alive.

Blake judgment reserved

THE Vice-Chancellor Sir Richard Scott reserved judgment yesterday over the Government's action against George Blake, the former double agent, for £24,000 earned from his memoirs. The Attorney-General Sir Nicholas Lyell claims Blake owes the money to the state because he broke the trust of his former MI6 bosses in publishing details of his life as a spy. He now lives in Moscow.

Lord Lester, appointed to put Blake's side in his absence, said the Attorney's argument "rendered the right to free speech quite superfluous". Using civil law in this case was a dangerous precedent because civil servants are already bound by the Official Secrets Act, and could be prosecuted for breaking it.

Coroner's ecstasy appeal

A CORONER yesterday appealed to teenagers at nightclub raves not to take ecstasy. He heard how Ben Nodes, an 18-year-old student from Bournemouth, Dorset, was found dead in a lavatory cubicle at a nightclub in Aldershot, Hampshire, the morning after taking the drug.

North East Hampshire coroner Andrew Bradley, sitting in Basingstoke, said the very name ecstasy seemed to convey some kind of deep joy, but people should talk to Ben's mother Susan, who was in the courtroom, about how good it is.

"There are probably people who understand now precisely what ecstasy can do," he said. "I am sorry we cannot pack every single nightclub in this room to tell them what it is like. You end up curled on the floor of a lavatory somewhere, dead."

"If this inquest does nothing else, please let it cry out to everybody who wants to have a good time: There is a cost to drug taking and there is an opportunity to stay alive by avoiding these substances." He recorded a verdict of misadventure.

Plea for Latin and Greek

NICK Tate, the Government's chief curriculum adviser, yesterday urged schools to consider making time for teaching Latin and Greek to 11 to 14-year-olds during the fifth of the week they were not engaged in their statutory national curriculum subjects.

"Classics needed special pleading because it had declined over 30 years and 'lacked defenders'," Dr Tate told a conference of classics teachers at Cambridge University. — Peter Kingston

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Ireland's triple killer gets life

David Sharrock  
Ireland Correspondent

THE Irish Republic's longest and costliest criminal jury trial ended yesterday when a man was given three life sentences for murdering a mother, her three-year-old son and a priest.

Brendan O'Donnell, aged 23, killed 29-year-old Imelda Riney, her son, Liam, and Father Joseph Walsh at a beauty spot in Co Clare in May 1994.

O'Donnell, of no fixed abode, sat impassively in the dock at Dublin's Central Criminal Court as the three mandatory life sentences were handed down by Mr Justice Vivian Lavan. Relatives of the victims wept and hissed when O'Donnell's lawyer applied for him to be sent to a mental hospital. The request was turned down.

O'Donnell's defence rested on his claim of madness, which was disputed by state witnesses who said he was suffering from a combination of personality disorders which did not amount to serious mental illness.

During the 53-day trial, 82 witnesses gave evidence, including 13 doctors, psychiatrists and psychologists. More than 2,000 documents relating to the trial, which cost an estimated £500,000, were produced in court.

During five days in the witness box, O'Donnell gave chilling evidence about the killings. He said he had killed Ms Riney because she was the "devil's daughter" and had shot Liam because he didn't want him to grow up without his mother "like I did". He laughed as he described

what happened when he shot Father Walsh in the head because he was going to "baptise the devil's son". He said he had enjoyed killing all three people and denied he was deliberately acting mad.

Detective Garda James Hanley said O'Donnell had told police: "I shot them all. I don't want to think about it. I must be evil."

Patrick MacEntee, defending, said: "It is not right that a sick man should be called other than a sick man."

The jury heard details how he was first examined by psychiatrists when he was five years old, how his father used to beat him, and the devastation he felt at the death of his mother when he was nine.

He said he had spent many years in a range of prisons and institutions in Ireland and England from when he was 13 years old — and had begun hearing voices in 1992.

O'Donnell did not attend the final weeks of the trial after he attempted to hang himself at Dublin's Central Mental Hospital.

The court heard how he abducted Ms Riney, an artist, and her son from their remote cottage at Whitegate, Co Clare, on April 29, 1994 and took them to nearby Cregg Wood where he shot them in the back and buried them together in a shallow grave.

He then abducted Fr Walsh from his home in Eyrecourt, Co Galway, on May 3, took him to Cregg Wood and shot him.

Four days later, during a massive police search, he abducted Fiona Sampson and forced her at gunpoint to march through fields and bogs before hijacking a car, which was eventually stopped after a struggle by Garda.

Shake-up in housing benefit 'risks evictions'

James Meikle  
Community Affairs Editor

THE Government's social security advisers warned yesterday that a shake-up in housing benefit payments totalling £13 billion a year would make it more difficult for claimants to rent private homes.

They said people searching for rooms faced demands for higher deposits and rents in advance from landlords, and might be at greater risk of eviction if mistakes led to slow payment.

But Peter Lilley, the Social Security Secretary, insisted that, from October, new claims for housing benefit would all be paid in arrears in an attempt to cut fraud and overpayments estimated at £400 million.

He also confirmed plans to allow local authorities to pay the first tranches of benefit to landlords, so as to reduce the risk of claimants absconding with the cash. Benefit limits on unemployed people under 25 are also to be introduced to make sure they do not rent houses they could not afford if they were in work.

His announcement coincided with his department's publication of the Social Security Advisory Committee report, which urged caution in introducing the changes before the effect of other cuts in benefit levels became clear.

The advisers said: "There is already discrimination against claimants by some landlords, and there are clear indications that more will choose tenants who they can rely on to pay rent on time rather than claimants who can only pay in arrears."

Asbestos damages upheld by judges

LSD tested army weapon

Bette

صوتك من الامم

# Asbestos damages upheld by judges

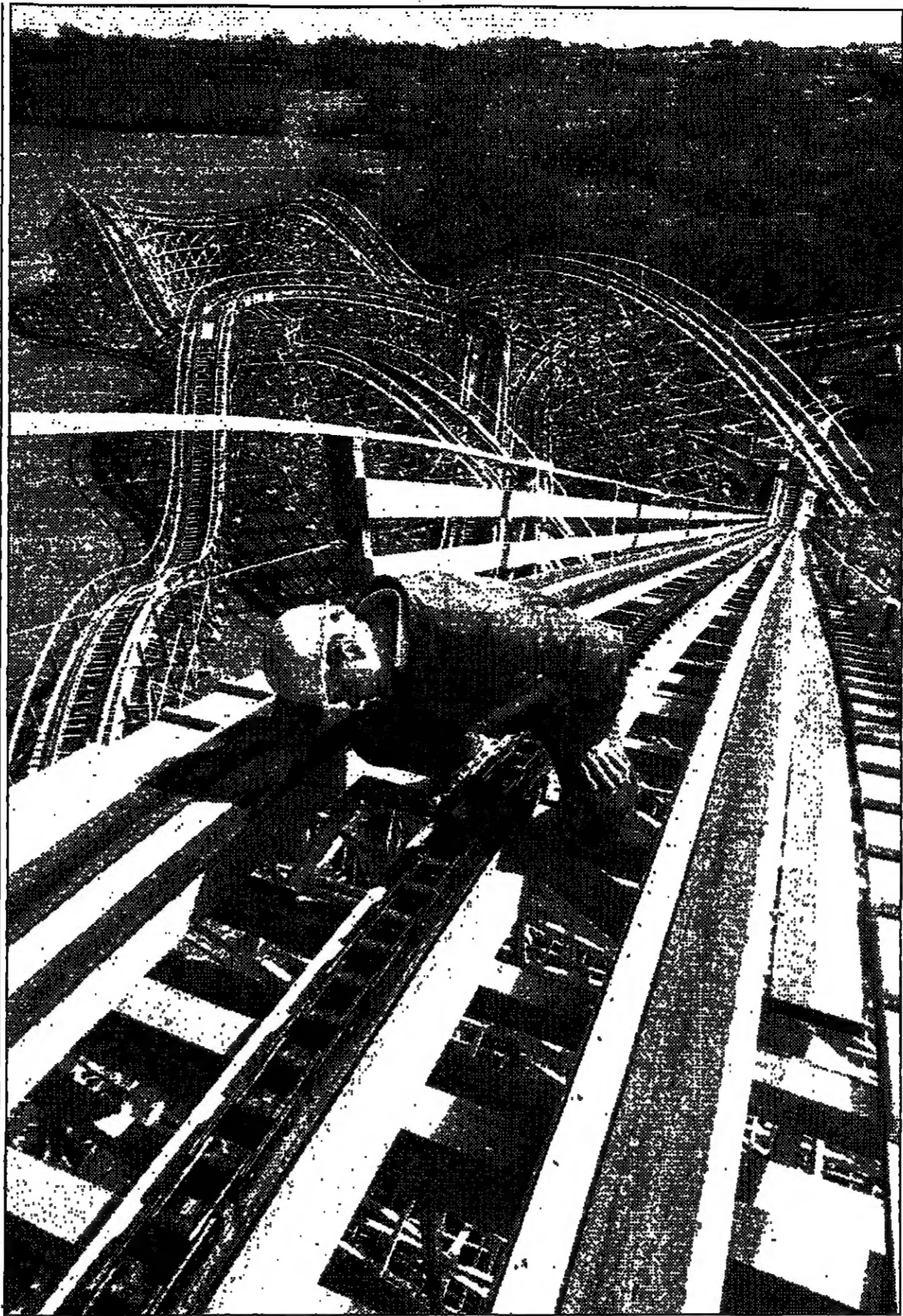
Claire Dyer  
Legal Correspondent

**T**HE Appeal Court yesterday upheld a High Court ruling that the multinational engineering company T&N must pay a total of £115.000 compensation for fatal cancers contracted by two people who as children lived near an asbestos factory.

Three judges rejected an appeal against the ruling, and found that T&N, parent company of J.W. Roberts, which operated the factory at Armley, Leeds until 1969, should have known about the dangers of asbestos dust long before the births of the victims. The ruling will ease the path for around 40 similar claims now in the pipeline, including 23 already lodged with T&N. The judges' finding that the company should have known of the threat to lungs long before 1925 - earlier than the date cited by the High Court - could open the way to further claims.

1933. "The true date was much earlier, certainly long before Mr Margerison's birth date. His activities as a child, therefore, as well as Mrs Hancock's, were at a time when the defendants were on actual constructive notice as to the potential pulmonary damage that exposure to asbestos dust could bring about." He added that while it was not known until 1969 that asbestos dust causes mesothelioma, an illness which shows no symptoms for decades, the fact that the danger of some harm to lungs was known when the children were playing in the dust is enough to make the company liable for the more serious harm.

The judges said a Home Office report in 1930 had linked asbestos to diseases including pulmonary and bronchial catarrh, asthma, bronchitis, and emphysema. John Fickling, Mrs Margerison's solicitor, said: "Success in this case makes me a good deal more confident about future claims." At the High Court hearing, witnesses had told how as children they had jumped on piles of asbestos. Lord Justice Russell said: "Sometimes the bales would burst open. Dust, covering the whole of the loading bays was a common feature and doors leading to the factory interior were frequently left open. Dust fibres clung to mesh over the windows. One witness spoke of children playing 'snowballs' using dust acquired in the areas that were open to them."



Engineer John Gwilliam inspecting Megaforce, at Oakwood Park, Narberth, Dyfed, the biggest wooden roller coaster built in Europe in 50 years. It opened on Saturday after tests using a computerised dummy passenger. PHOTOGRAPH: JEFF MORGAN

# Advertisers get warning on use of sex in posters

Andrew Cull  
Media Correspondent

**A** WARNING of growing public concern at the gratuitous use of sexual imagery in poster campaigns is issued today by the Advertising Standards Authority. The authority says in its annual report: "The public are clearly expressing an increased level of disquiet about the images that confront them uninvited in the high street." It urges advertisers to take greater care, adding: "Parents have expressed dismay that certain posters force them into discussing issues with their children that they may be unwilling, or unready, to discuss."

imagery which the public find offensive," the report said. "In both these instances however, the approach chosen by the advertisers was in keeping with the nature of the product advertised." The authority added: "Advertisers who appear to legitimise, condone or encourage behaviour that parents and society may be trying to discourage raise questions about the industry's ability to use this medium unfiltered." Complaints went from 9,657 in 1994 to 12,804 in 1995, an all-time high. Ten advertisements accounted for nearly a quarter of the complaints. While objections about misleading advertisements showed a marginal fall, those covered by decency rules increased from 1,705 to 1,402. Of 541 advertisements considered in this category, 50 were ordered to be withdrawn. Lord Rodgers of Quarry Bank, the authority's chairman, said increasing publicity could account for the increase in complaints. He warned: "The industry must respect the codes. A tiny minority of advertisers could cause problems for the whole industry if they were to play games with the system."

## Top 10 advert complaints

- British Safety Council: 1,192 complaints, upheld; Pope wearing hard hat with 11th commandment: "Thou shalt always wear a condom"; Club 18-30: 490 complaints, upheld; "Girls, Can we interest you in a package holiday?" (with a picture of a man with a bulge in his boxer shorts); International Fund for Animal Welfare: 270 complaints, upheld; "What kind of person mutilates small animals?" (complaint with serial killer Jeffrey Dahmer); Gallaher Tobacco: 251 complaints, upheld; National Lottery-style hand of fate "giving the finger" to a Hamlet cigar smoker; Warner Bros: 207 complaints, not upheld; Advertisement for Disclosure film, featuring actress Demi Moore in intimate embrace: 167 complaints, upheld; Mailshot for Citra-Slim in form of advert torn out of magazine, with attached hand-written post-it note recommendation: 100 complaints, not upheld; Photograph of hunter with dead animal and caption: "The only thing in this photograph that's protected by law is the man's identity"; "What kind of person mutilates small animals?"; £20,000 cash to be claimed" mail-out; Playboy TV: 70 complaints, not upheld; "Morgans - Erotic TV for lovers"; Air Miles Promotion: 54 complaints, upheld; Featured runaway child who used father's credit card and passport without permission.

# LSD 'tested as army weapon'

David Fairhall  
Defence Correspondent

**T**HE hallucinogenic drug LSD was secretly tested on British servicemen at Porton Down in the 1950s in the hope of using it as an offensive weapon, it is claimed today. The claim - in a Channel 4 television Dispatches programme - contradicts information given in Parliament and repeated yesterday by a spokesman for the Porton Down research establishment, that field trials of the drug only began there in the 1960s. The difference in dates is crucial because in 1956 Britain renounced the use of offensive chemical weapons, and military research was concentrated on defensive measures such as gas masks. Channel 4's evidence of the contradiction consists of a reference in recently declassified records of military LSD experiments suggesting that human tests were conducted in the 1950s, and a document marked Secret, US Eyes Only, dated 1958, indicating

that the aim was to find a psychochemical compound which could be recommended as a military agent. However, the Defence and Evaluation Research Agency (DERA) said yesterday that "as far as we are aware Porton Down didn't do any trials on LSD until the 1960s". After having searched the public records and their own files, a spokesman said: "We have found no evidence that we were doing research on the offensive capability of LSD." Confusion may have arisen, he added, because Porton Down scientists had for some years been monitoring research conducted elsewhere, for example at Guis Hospital. Extensive military trials which were undoubtedly conducted during the 1960s showed that soldiers could be incapacitated by LSD, often by inducing uncontrollable laughter. But it was eventually concluded that an enemy would be unlikely to use the drug as a battlefield weapon, because it was expensive, hard to spread in aerosol form, and unpredictable in its effects.

# Macho fire service to relax ban on glasses

James Melke  
Community Affairs Editor

**T**HE fire service, renowned for the fitness of recruits and macho image, is preparing to relax one of the toughest eyesight standards in Britain and change rules which bar people needing spectacles and contact lenses. Even the SAS allows troops to wear glasses under some circumstances, and now fire brigades are developing breathing masks with inserts for spectacles ready for a switch this summer. They may pay those who

need glasses to have two pairs, tough, slip-proof but of "pleasing cosmetic appearance". But they are unlikely to pay for contact lenses. Chief officers are satisfied crews' safety will not be compromised by the change designed to keep more experienced firefighters in service, cut pension and replacement costs, and end the risk of legal challenge to medical requirements deemed unnecessarily stringent. The Fire Brigades Union is likely to resist changes in entry standards but support the introduction of spectacles for firefighters

whose eyesight deteriorates. It is also against contact lenses. Formal guidance is expected after a meeting at the Home Office this month. Between 15 and 20 per cent of 50,000 full and part-time firefighters may need help with their eyesight if the recommendations for "appropriate" spectacles and contact lenses are adopted. The proposed changes follow a three-year study for the Home Office by a team at City University, London. It concluded the high entry eyesight standards had not prevented many firefighters failing subsequent

tests at their three-yearly medical examinations. The team's report noted that even now "firefighters who ordinarily, when off duty, use spectacles or contact lenses to improve their sight, are required to work with relatively poor vision". Gordon Russel, chief fire officer for Lancashire and chairman of the personnel and training committee of the Chief Fire Officers' Association, said: "To join the service, you will still need good eyesight, but the future of firefighters with deteriorating eyesight will be much more secure." David Matthews,

national health and safety officer for the FBU, said: "I am not being disrespectful to the SAS... but every minute of every day, firefighters everywhere in the land are having a battle. It is inevitable they will be entering smoky areas where eyesight is critical." Hard contact lenses will be barred even if all the changes go through because they might be sealed into firefighters' eyeballs in flash fires. Only three in five meet aged 18 to 22 meet the present eyesight entry standards. The new standard will raise this to nearly nine in 10.

# Labour condemns 'fiasco' as Government axes £2.7bn London CrossRail

Rebecca Smithers  
Political Correspondent

**T**HE Government yesterday effectively consigned to the scrap heap the £2.7 billion London CrossRail scheme, in a move condemned by Labour and business groups. Sir George Young, the Transport Secretary, said the

scheme would have to "come before other rail projects planned for the capital - the Jubilee Line extension, the Channel Tunnel link and Thameslink 2000. Construction of the underground rail route linking regional lines in the east and west will not start before 2008. In a statement yesterday, he said he had asked the three bodies promoting the scheme

— British Rail, London Transport and Railtrack — not to apply for legislative powers to build the line under the Transport and Works Act. Instead Railtrack, once it is privatised, is being invited "to consider the project further". But he stressed that CrossRail should proceed "only as a joint venture with a substantial private sector contribution" — and made no refer-

ence to funding or the future of the 150-strong project team. The project has absorbed £140 million of taxpayers' money since it was conceived in the 1988 Central Rail Study, and has a £14 million budget for this year, and £12 million in each of the next two years. Glenda Jackson, Labour transport spokeswoman, said last night: "This is effectively the end of CrossRail. £150 mil-

lion of taxpayers' money has been thrown away [and] there must be an investigation into how the Government has squandered so much public money. The whole thing has become a fiasco. It is a damning indictment of the Government's attitude towards public transport in the capital." London First, representing business interests, said it was "greatly disappointed".

# 14 years for sex attacker who tried to murder boy

James Peacock

**A** MAN who raped and attempted to murder a 13-year-old boy was jailed for 14 years yesterday at Leeds crown court. James Peacock, 49, deserved a lengthy sentence because he was a danger to the public and his victim was still terrified. Peacock, a fork lift truck driver, from Manningham, Bradford, was found guilty last month of attempting to murder the boy. He admitted the rape. The court had heard the teenager was fishing near a bridge in Haworth, West Yorkshire, last June, when Peacock began to talk to him. As the boy packed his belongings, Peacock produced a knife, grabbed him and raped him. When his victim hit him with a stone, Peacock tried to strangle him, punched him and held his head under the water. The judge said the youngster had suffered terrible psychological injuries. Peacock was jailed for 14 years for the attempted murder and seven years for the rape, to run concurrently.

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World news in brief

Videotape captures police brutality

A VIDEOTAPE of sheriff's deputies clubbing a man and a woman — suspected illegal immigrants — in Riverside County, California, has been shown repeatedly on local television.

Cult scandal hits TV station

THE TOKYO Broadcasting System is under attack for showing members of the Aum Shinrikyo doomsday cult a 1989 interview with an anti-cult lawyer, Tsutomu Sakamoto, on condition that they keep it secret.

Identity crisis for Afrikaners

AN AFRIKANER youth league, the Junior Reporters, announced this week it was launching a Supreme Court action to force the state broadcasting services to give more air-time to its language.

Adieu to French summer time

FRANCE may abandon summer time, a decision which may complicate relations with Britain just as the two countries have harmonised the dates on which they put the clocks forward and back.

Liberian refugees killed

TWENTY-SEVEN people were killed in an attack on a refugee camp in Guinea, north-west Africa, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees said yesterday.



Militant action... Riot police stand guard over squatters who occupied the roof of a building in Amsterdam's docklands yesterday to protest against plans for a bridge.

Cassock censure for cleric

ARCHIMANDRITE Pergandis Meraelis, whose trial on immorality charges triggered violent riots among the faithful in Cyprus, has been censured for "being seen without his cassock".

Mr Clean out of Italian poll

ANTONIO DI PIETRO, the hero of the Italian courts' drive against corruption, has decided to stay out of politics — at least for the moment.

Fraternity flourishes as French Communist Party scents victory for left wing in next elections

Emboldened left seek new alliance

Paul Webster in Paris

LEADERS of all six main components of the French left shared a platform at a mass meeting last night that could form the basis of a new alliance, 19 years after the last such pact collapsed.

The meeting of 15,000 people in Paris's indoor sports stadium was arranged by Robert Hue, the French Communist Party (PCF) national secretary, who believes his movement should take part in government if the left wins general elections in two years' time.

Alongside him were Lionel Jospin, the first secretary of the Socialist Party, and the leaders of the Radical movement (Jean-Michel Baylet), the Citizens' Movement (Jean-Pierre Chevènement),

Les Verts (Dominique Voynet), and the Communist Revolutionary League (Alain Krivine).

Mr Hue's claim that the gathering was "historic" was no exaggeration. Apart from informal joint meetings in May 1988 and occasional protest marches, there has been no precedent for an across-party national summit ranging from the Greens to the Trotskyist Revolutionary League.

The meeting was called to take stock of profound changes at the top of the two biggest movements, the Communists and Socialists, which were dominated in the 1970s by the pro-Soviet Union Georges Marchais and his distrustful electoral ally, François Mitterrand.

They signed a "common programme for government" in 1972, when the Commu-



Fair-weather friends... The last pact, signed by François Mitterrand (left) and Georges Marchais, was short-lived.



nists were the more powerful party. Mr Marchais wrecked the joint platform when his electorate began swinging to Mr Mitterrand. The break ended the left's hopes of win-

ning the 1978 general elections. Since then, the two parties have co-operated at a local level, but attempts to work together in government have

been awkward. Four Communist ministers joined the 1981 coalition government only to walk out in 1984. In 1974, Mr Mitterrand was the left's sole presidential candidate, but the Communists had their own candidate in 1981, 1988 and 1995.

Yesterday's meeting came almost a year after Mr Jospin won 47 per cent of the vote in the presidential election, when all movements rallied to the Socialists. Mr Jospin's surprisingly good score and an upward turn for Communist fortunes are among several factors that have convinced the left it will win the 1998 parliamentary elections.

Troubles on the right, including the unpopularity of the Gaullist prime minister, Alain Juppé, and divisions in the junior coalition partner, the Union for French Democracy, have boosted leftwing

solidarity, ensuring the capture of eight rightwing seats in recent national assembly by-elections.

The rightwing coalition is also threatened by the rising popularity of the racist National Front. According to a Le Monde poll yesterday, its ideas are shared by 28 per cent of the electorate.

The Communist Party's search for a moderate image — following the collapse of the Soviet Union and the retirement of Mr Marchais — has cast Mr Hue in the role of mediator between groups that were barely speaking two years ago. While he wants to see as many Communist ministers as possible in a future leftwing government, a joint platform seems out of the question. The Socialist Party has failed to dampen Communist opposition to European monetary union.



Red carpet... Presidents Yeltsin (right) and Lukashenko (left) leave the Kremlin with Patriarch Alexei II after yesterday's signing ceremony. PHOTOGRAPH: ALEXANDER ZEMLIANCHENKO

Slav alliance turns clock back

David Hearst in Moscow

IN A staged display of Slavic brotherhood, the presidents of Russia and Belarus signed a pact yesterday to bewilder the post-communist world. They called their new alliance the Community of Sovereign Republics — the SSR — whose Cyrillic acronym is only one letter short of USSR.

To a Russian ear, nostalgic for the economic and political certainties of the past, the SSR sounded much like business as usual. Only the word "Socialist" was missing.

To a Slav nationalist, the shotgun marriage ceremony in St George's Hall of the Kremlin was plain enough. President Boris Yeltsin declared: "For us the games of those questioning the democratic statehood of our [two peoples] and of those seeking to drag us into the morass of isolationism are equally unacceptable."

His partner from Minsk concurred. The unpopular president, Alexander Lukashenko, said he had been

accused of shortsightedness and of presiding over the surrender of Belarus's sovereignty "in a parasitic aspiration to resolve its problems at its neighbours' expense".

Both partners were relieved to say "I do", seal their pact with three kisses, and stride down the red-carpeted staircase to receive the acclamation of their two peoples in the cathedral square.

Even the Church, in the person of Patriarch Alexei II, was on hand to bless the union.

Minutes later, the two new states of the post-Soviet world emerged to announce the good news to dignitaries who had travelled overnight on a "train of brotherhood" from Minsk. Mr Yeltsin spoke first. "Each side will maintain its sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity," he told well-wishers.

President Lukashenko spoke of two nations marching together towards prosperity and into the next century. The document signed yesterday foresees a joint position on foreign policy, joint border patrols, a joint fight



against organised crime and the shared use of "military infrastructure". However, many national differences remain.

The economic codicil to the agreement blithely states that 1997 will see a unified policy on currency, credit and budgets, "with the aim of creating the conditions for a unified currency". The last time this was attempted, the Russian Central Bank was deeply suspicious of the cost of monetary union. Compared with

Belarus's runaway "little hare", the Russian rouble is considered hard currency.

But yesterday was not a day for doubters. Presidents Yeltsin and Lukashenko gave their blessing to the creation of a supreme council, on which they, their prime ministers, the Speakers of both parliaments and the chairman of their executive committee would all sit.

For the Belarussian president, yesterday was the culmination of three years of steady courtship. For Mr Yeltsin — who today will undertake his second solemn engagement of the week when he registers his presidential candidacy — any rise in his opinion poll rating cannot come soon enough.

More than 10,000 Belarussians massed in the centre of Minsk yesterday to vent their fury at the pact on integration with Russia.

After police cordons prevented them from approaching parliament, the protesters defied a ban on public gatherings by shouting "Long live Belarus!" and marching down the city's main street.

Bulgaria in turmoil over Yeltsin's offer of a place in his union

Ian Traynor

THE old saw about Bulgaria being the 16th Soviet republic when the Kremlin held sway over half of Europe has suddenly returned to haunt the struggling Balkan state.

Russia's president, Boris Yeltsin, has infuriated Bulgaria's president, Zhelyu Zhelev, a former dissident and anti-communist, by offering Sofia a place in his new economic union of former Soviet republics. Mr Zhelev has attacked his own prime minister, Zhan Videnov, head of the ruling former communist Bulgarian Socialist Party, saying he may be guilty of treason.

The Yeltsin offer, which followed a visit to Moscow by Mr Videnov, has triggered an uproar in Bulgaria, with the opposition calling for protest rallies, the president denouncing his government, and the media smelling a rat.

Mr Yeltsin could only have made the offer after receiving the appropriate

signals from the Bulgarian government, the daily newspaper, Standart, said.

Mr Zhelev demanded that the government come clean and rebut the Russian proposal. "If the government fails to respond clearly, unequivocally and categorically to the specified statements and to my questions, I shall be convinced that it is holding secret talks behind the back of the Bulgarian people and is committing treason," the president said.

While Bulgaria is keen to join the European Union, the former communist running the country are equivocal about possible Nato membership and back Mr Yeltsin in his opposition to any Nato expansion into the former Warsaw Pact.

General Pavel Grachev, the Russian defence minister, warned recently that if Poland joined Nato, Russia would deploy weaponry in Bulgaria.

A government statement denied any secret talks with Moscow.

France offers subsidies to save town-centre cinemas from losing trade to giant multiplexes

Alex Duval Smith in Paris

IN AN attempt to save neighbourhood cinemas from going the way of corner shops swallowed up by supermarkets, the French government is to clamp down on the development of multiplex screens.

Before Friday's opening of Mégarama, a 17-screen cinema complex on the outskirts of Paris, the culture minister, Philippe Douste-Blazy, announced plans to increase subsidies to small town-centre cinemas.

He told Le Figaro: "It would undoubtedly not be in the interest of the film industry to freeze or ban

multiplex developments. However, multiplexes can cause the closure of town-centre cinemas and we need to prevent that."

Last week, parliament passed a law limiting new multiplex cinemas to 2,000 seats. But plans for the Mégarama, in Villeneuve-la-Garenne, were laid long before the new law. The independent multiplex will seat 3,000 people.

Mégarama's managing director, Jean-Pierre LeMoine, said: "My complex will not affect local screens. It is near three motorways. In an area where people use cars a lot."

the most powerful distribution companies are US-controlled. He warned in Le Figaro: "We will watch, over the next three months, to what extent European and French films get on to the screens of these cinemas."

"If we need to take special action to increase the screening of French and European films, we can increase the powers of the government's film industry mediator and create financial incentives for cinemas to show French films."

French cinema-goers usually vote with their feet. Even Disney blockbusters, such as the Lion King, tend to be outdone at the box office by home-grown films.

French armed robbers shot dead 'had strong Islamic fundamentalism links'

Reuter in Paris

A MAGISTRATE investigating a gang of suspected armed robbers wiped out by French and Belgian police last week said yesterday there was evidence of links with Islamic fundamentalism.

The magistrate, who asked not to be identified, told reporters a copy of Al-Ansar, a fundamentalist publication connected to the Algerian Armed Islamic Group (GIA), was found in the car of one of the gang members.

tensive Islamic fundamentalist background," he said.

Five suspected gangsters, four of North African origin and the fifth an ethnic Frenchman converted to Islam, died and four police officers were wounded during 24 hours of violence in northern France and Belgium starting last Thursday evening.

Jean-Louis Debré, the interior minister, initially ruled out any connection with fundamentalist groups. Other officials were less categorical and police have since told reporters such links looked increasingly likely.

The magistrate said yesterday that Al-Ansar had indirectly claimed responsibility for the Roubaix case for some of last year's bombing attacks in France, in which eight people died and more than 170 were wounded.

The latest violence began when a detonator exploded in a booby-trapped car parked outside the main police station in the northern city of Lille. The hunt for the bombers led police to storm a house in a predominantly Arab-inhabited area of nearby Roubaix. Four men were killed and four police officers wounded during the assault. Another two suspects escaped and fled to Belgium, where the drama ended last Friday in a final shoot-out with police in which one suspect was killed and the other wounded and captured.

صوتنا من الاعمال

Large advertisement on the right side of the page, featuring a portrait of a man and various text elements including 'EVERY', 'F', 'E210.33w E77', 'E304.3w E73', 'E149', 'E229', 'E249', 'E359', and 'FRE'.



**Rattling the dovecot**

Can Real World really change the real world?

THE INTERESTING thing about Real World, the alliance of 32 campaigning charities and pressure groups launched yesterday is why it didn't happen years ago. Businesses realised decades back — when they formed the Confederation of British Industry — that it was much easier to influence government if the large number of companies and trade associations came together to lobby for the central planks of policy on which they could all agree rather than being picked off by the government of the day one by one. Real World is a sort of political party without candidates. It claims to represent 2.1 million supporters who have buried their differences to agree on a manifesto of 12 points most of which are not only sensible but running with the grain of contemporary politics (even if governments have been extremely slow to implement them). The manifesto will be presented to every candidate at the next election in an attempt to deflect politicians from their single-tracked obsession with improving consumption. Jonathan Porritt says that RW will "rattle the polluted dovecot of British politics as it's never been rattled before."

This is both its strength and its weakness. It is strong where it is demanding tougher targets for objectives already on the domestic agenda, such as 100,000 social houses a year to meet the huge increase in households over the next decade already identified by government statisticians; reducing road traffic by 10 per cent by 2010, establishing a Bill of Rights and a target for reducing the UK's CO2 emissions by 20 per cent between 1990 and 2005 (where progress so far has been partly accidental due to the unexpected rise of gas-fired power stations at the expense of coal rather than as a result of a purposive strategy). It is weak where it is demanding the phased replacement of national insurance

taxes (to boost employment) by taxes on pollution. This is a very interesting idea, but ought to be on a wider European agenda so any perceived losses of international competitiveness could be neutralised. International lobbies are also needed to ensure countries keep to the — widely ignored — UN pledge to spend 0.7 per cent of national income on aid and to control international arms transfers.

One of the coalition's lesser demands — regular publication of an alternative measure of GDP to reflect special and environmental factors — is surely something they are uniquely placed to do themselves. The proposal which costs most money — £1 billion a year of public investment in community and voluntary enterprises — is the one you won't find in the manifestos of the main political parties who are scared of financial commitments. Yet it is the one that could have the biggest short-term effect on employment. On both sides of the Atlantic the Third Sector — of voluntary effort, charities and care — has been identified as perhaps the only growth area for jobs during the next decade when both manufacturing and the service industries could be shedding jobs simultaneously. It is possible that in the long-run this could be partly financed by lottery proceeds when the Millennium Fund ceases to qualify at the end of the decade. Meanwhile it would be a cost-effective use of public money to start spending now. But there is no way this Government, hell-bent on increasing the consumption-driven feel-good factor, will divert £1 billion from its tax-cutting treasure chest for the voluntary sector. Labour is more sympathetic in principle but is running scared of making spending commitments like this. If Real World manages to shift Labour on this, then we may have to change our views about what we mean by the real world.

**Core values in the global village**

A level playing field requires fair labour as well as fair trade.

JACQUES CHIRAC was right to use this week's G7 summit on jobs to point out that developing countries should not compete with Europe by condoning miserable labour standards by employers. The British government replied that this was protectionism. The reaction was as predictable as it was shortsighted, for the French president had made it clear that developing countries were perfectly entitled to compete by lower wages and less extensive social security benefits. The issue is not to try to impose European social standards throughout the world, or set some global minimum wage. What the French government is calling for is a recognition that there are certain core human rights which need to be encouraged and enforced. These are the freedom to join trade unions and bargain collectively, as well as the abolition of forced labour and the exploitation of child labour. They are basic requirements, whatever a country's level of development or average wages are.

Most developing countries accepted this when they signed up to the International Labour Organisation and its various conventions. What is needed is more work on how to investigate and enforce compliance with these conventions rather than trying to deflect the issue into a heated argument about free trade versus protectionism. Although it did not spell it out as clearly as it could have, the Group of Seven agreed yesterday that the issue can be put to the

World Trade Organisation when it holds its first ministerial meeting in Singapore in December. This is a useful first step though it is important that Britain does not try to block it altogether by claiming it is not a trade-related issue. The WTO is young without much expertise in the field, and it would be helpful if, as the new boy on the Geneva block, it worked closely with the ILO.

Globalisation is not just a North-South issue. Some of the fiercest competition now goes on within the South, as the more advanced Asian tigers like South Korea and Taiwan find themselves losing jobs to workers in countries such as the Philippines and Malaysia. Behind them lower down on the labour standards scale come China, Vietnam, and Indonesia. Internationally agreed social clauses would help to ensure that competition is not based on unfair or degrading conditions. By enhancing the role of trade unions, they indirectly provide the mechanism for improving safety standards and eliminating forced labour and child exploitation. It would also be good if the WTO drew up reports on labour standards compliance to go with its country-by-country trade policy reviews. These could be based on the ILO's examinations. By acting together the two organisations could give a cost-effective impetus to the important link between fair trade and fair labour standards which the Lille meeting has put on the international political agenda.

**The prevention of debate bill**

No new emergency, so why has Parliament been hustled?

EMERGENCY laws can be dangerous laws. We all know that. Legislate in haste; repent at leisure in the European Court of Human Rights. Sometimes we all accept that emergency laws are a necessary evil in order to secure a greater good. But for there to be emergency legislation, there must also be an emergency. In the case of the Prevention of Terrorism (Additional Provisions) Bill there is no such thing.

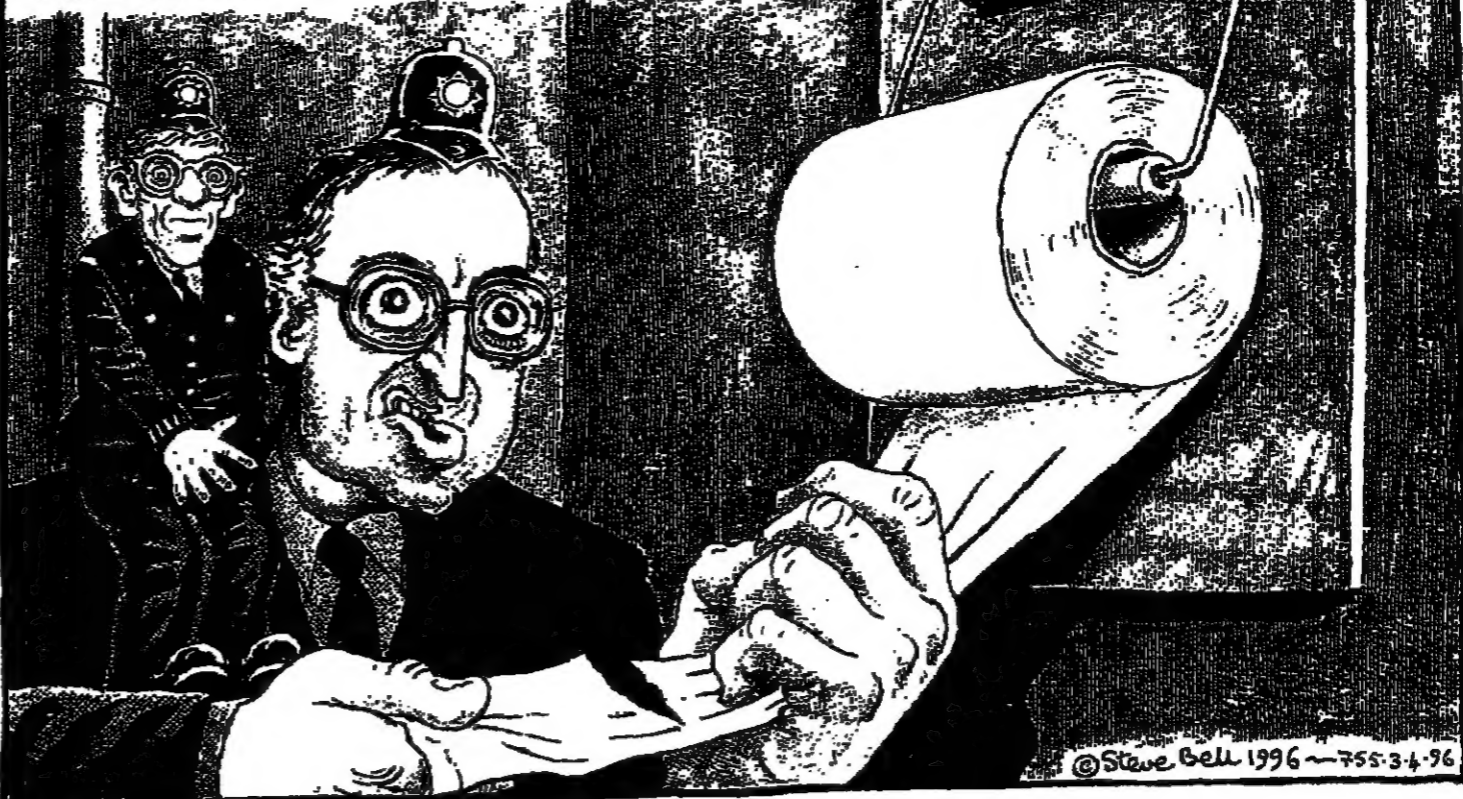
Whatever you may think of the original Prevention of Terrorism Act of 1974, it is clear that the bill was brought in during an emergency, the aftermath of two bombings in Birmingham. The bombs went off one week; the PTA was on the statute book by the end of the next. The same applied to much of the other rapid track legislation in our history.

Where is the emergency which genuinely justifies these new laws? The Canary Wharf explosion, cited by some

ministers, took place on February 9. It is not acceptable to bring a bill forward nearly two months later and curtail debate on it as if the blast had happened last week. The only other proffered justification is an event which has not happened and may not happen — a further bombing this weekend. Well, if that threat is so real then why are we not being told about it in detail?

No one denies that we must guard against the bombers. But why was no hint given of this legislation when the PTA was renewed only three weeks ago? It is said the Home Office had the bill drafted a fortnight ago. It certainly could have published it last week. Time could have been set aside for proper debate within the available timetable. Parliament could have been asked to sit tomorrow if necessary. Emergency legislation can be a necessary abuse of the normal rules. But this is an abuse of an abuse.

**BRITISH POLITICS EXPLAINED: THE UNWRITTEN CONSTITUTION**



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**Letters to the Editor**

**Fundamental truths**

ADDRESSING the 11th session of the self-styled Muslim Parliament in London on Sunday, its leader, Dr Kalim Siddiqui, talked of a "campaign of demonising Islam and Muslims in Britain" following the suicide bombings in Israel (Muslim leader says Zionists orchestrating 'Islamophobia', April 1). Am I the only one who believes this man to be dangerous and transgressing one of the country's laws? You report that he "re-emphasised the parliament's support for the seven-year fatwa on Salman Rushdie (and 'an order that must be carried out'). Who is demonising Islam more than Siddiqui himself? And does the law allow him to make such insane demands to end the life of a British citizen?" Arnold Wesker. Hay on Wye, Hereford HR3 5RJ.

ADMIRABLE Claire Rayner (Give us a break, April 1) is right about paternity leave. Just for the record, though, I must correct what she says about the presence of fathers in the labour ward being unheard of in the mid-fifties. When my first child was born at University College Hospital, London, in 1966, my young husband was certainly there to see his daughter rush out into the world — a moment of unforgettable joy. He was there for all our later children, and he was certainly there when he was excluded by a different hospital for medical reasons; and I'd say he bonded least well with that child. Claire Tomalin. London NW1.

MY wife was all set to commence training as a nurse this year. For both of us it represented an achievement which would truly celebrate her personal struggle out of the psychosis precipitated by the birth of our son in 1961. Because of the very small social risk of her condition recurring, however, her wish to train as a nurse was denied her, as was working in any similar capacity, though it was always recognised that she presented no threat to her child or anyone else. A sensible precaution by the health authority and regulatory body? No one who knows her would believe a risk existed but would see the denial of potential and vocation. How do we reconcile this zealous caution with the same regulatory body's willingness to permit sex offenders back on to the professional register (Rapist returns to nursing, March 20). Name and address supplied.

COULD I suggest that the RSPCA reorganises as a political party? It would be free from interference by the Charity Commissioners. It wouldn't pay corporation tax or income tax. It would only be accountable to its members, if that. Who knows, in the present state of British politics, it might even win the next election. David A Jackson. The Mance, Cornforth Lane, Coshoe, Durham DH6 4DX.

WITH reference to the agencies of too high ticket prices (Case of the missing thousands, Sport, April 2), I was interested to see the entered crowd control at Southampton and Portsmouth for 26 years. I despaired at how the paying spectators were being ripped off the paying spectator for years; if people think the prices are too high, take my advice — don't go. Brendan Stallard. Orchard Close, London E4 8LH.

**Stop new search powers**

YOUR report (Police win stop and search power, April 1) highlights the possibility of police forces using new emergency powers designed to counter terrorism to arrest drug users. As such, it will add to existing powers under the Police and Criminal Evidence Act. Home Office statistics show, nationally, a 32 per cent increase in stop and searches for drugs under the Act between 1993 and 1994. Yet 85 per cent of those stopped on suspicion were not arrested. The figures also demonstrate a disproportionate effectiveness between police-force areas.

The Government's drugs strategy, Tackling Drugs Together, rightly highlights the need for co-ordinated action to reduce the demand for drugs. This can be achieved through investment in treatment and education. The police must assure us that any new powers are not used to distort further the effects of propelling more drug-users into the costly, and

inappropriate, clutches of the criminal justice system. Roger Howard. Chief Executive, Standing Conference on Drug Abuse. 32-36 Loman Street, London SE1 0EE.

THE rush to increase police stop-and-search powers is a grave threat to civil liberties and one to which the Labour Party shouldn't be so supinely acquiescing.

As someone who regularly drives through the road blocks in the City of London I have seen how motorists are already abused. Set up to counter the IRA terrorist, it seems strange that many of those pulled over appear to be black motorists. I know of no convicted black IRA bombers. Is there something I should be told or am I right in thinking that without better safeguards police will abuse their new powers? Sarah Gty. 28 Champion Grove, London SE5 8BW.

**What works with women**

NICKI Griffin suggests that an equal number of men would prefer to stay at home if only they dared say so (Letters, April 2). The latest survey conducted by MORI for the Whirlpool Foundations asked men just that question and they did dare to say that, given enough money for the things they needed, eight out of 10 would give up full-time work. The majority of both men and women in this survey, which found similar results in other European countries, said that their families were the most important part of their life and that they worked mainly because they needed the money.

Modern feminist campaign organisations are far from being out of touch with ordinary women. Eight out of 10 women said in the survey that their ideal lifestyle was to combine work with family life. The real challenge is to change the world of work and home so that the lives of both women and men can come closer to that ideal. Shelagh Diplock. Director, Fawcett Society, Fifth Floor, 45 Beech Street, London EC2Y 8AD.

IF SOMEONE asked me whether I want a "career" or to "stay at home", my response would be to stay at home. This doesn't mean I'm a "little" woman, wanting to cook, clean and look after children. It means I think all work, whether careerist or not, is exploitation and, yes, given the opportunity, I would love to stay at home.

This doesn't mean I want to be dependent on anyone else, but that if I could afford to I would spend my day writing, gardening, painting, doing all the things normally associated with "leisure" time. G Critchley. Porten Road, London W14.

OVER two million people stay at home in our country; the statistics on illness and mortality suggest this is not good for them. I suspect, however, that this is more to do with poverty than the lack of work and that most people would rather bother with a job if they had enough money to live comfortably and could disburse themselves of the idea that a job is necessary to give one dignity and/or identity. Catherine Wykes. Ashleigh Coach House, Ashleigh Drive, Cheltenham, Derby DE73 1RQ.



**I wandered lonely in a crowd**

YOU cite psychiatrist Anthony Stone's view that solitude is essential for creativity (Lone Rangers, March 27). Yet the very next day you carried an obituary of David Packard, founder of the computer company Hewlett-Packard and a man who understood how to foster innovation (Computer giant in a garage, March 28). The obituary pointed out that, instead of plush offices, executives at Hewlett-Packard had cubicles without doors, and engineers left their work out so that others could come by and offer ideas. Hewlett-Packard is the second-largest computer company in the US.

**It looks mad — but how do you tell?**

THERE is no laboratory test that can decide if a young living animal is afflicted with the agent causing BSE (How the truth was hatched, March 23). The diagnosis can only be made by observing the animal. Should signs lead to a diagnosis of BSE in the older animal, it seems reasonable to assume that the animal has been carrying the agent all the time, in light of the latent period. As in some human diseases, the greatest concentration of the agent appears in the nervous system. The agent, be it prion or virus, is ingested and subsequently transmitted from the intestines to the nervous system, brain, spinal cord and nerves. There appear to be only three routes of transmission: blood stream, lymphatic system and perinatal channels.

Muscle masses (to meat) are liberally supplied with all these systems. It is suggested that it is safe to eat the meat from a young animal, but is it? The agent is in transit across the muscle masses. As there is no therapeutic means of combating the BSE agent, there remains only one method of eradication: totally removing the vector — incinerating all cattle in the herd. There are measures to be taken to avoid new stock being affected by the agent possibly hiding in pasture, feed and water. The risk of contracting CJD may statistically be 0.001 per cent, but to the patient it is 100 per cent. (Dr) E G Rees Jones. 15 Darley Road, Manchester M16 0DG.

YOUR recent report on MAFFF's efforts to obstruct Dr Harsh Narang's development of a diagnostic test for BSE in cattle quoted his view that it was thereby attempting to cover up the full extent of the problem. But a report in the Investors Chronicle (March 20) may suggest a rather different motive.

"Diagnostic-kit developer Electrophoretics benefited from the scare over BSE. It has an exclusive deal with the Government to supply kits capable of diagnosing the disease." Electrophoretics shares jumped 40p from 125p to 165p. Perhaps Dr Narang's real problem was that he was unwittingly upsetting an "exclusive" deal between MAFFF and Electrophoretics. P M McGoldrick. 9 Station Approach, Sudbury, Middlesex HA0 2LA.

NOW that Conservative spin-doctors are busy trying to blame Europe for the ban on British beef, could I point out that the failure by UK authorities to slaughter the hedges of budding thorn and holly with curatives of lambs tails and prickly gorse, thick with yellow flowers. Princeps daffodils grow on the bank, remnants of cleared market gardens now used for grazing, evidenced by parallel ribbons of bright green sheep tracks across the precipitous slope. Beyond Heathfield, Birchenhays' and Brentwood's steep orchards and daffodil gardens are engulfed by spruce and greening larch, closing in on packing-houses where stone chimneys and

**Consumed**

UNFORTUNATELY, we have seen a steady diminution in the status of consumer affairs in government since Alan Williams was the first Minister of State at the Department of Prices and Consumer Protection (Letters, March 28). Now we have an under-resourced Corporate and Consumer Affairs Division within the DTI which has seen its budget cut by around 30 per cent in three years.

The NCC, too, has long been crowded about the neck by consumer interest in food being in the hands of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. MAFFF promotes the interests of the food and agriculture industries as well as protecting consumers. In 1993, we saw a conflict of interest between the Food Agency so that the regulatory function of food safety and inspection should be separated from the promotion of the food and agriculture industries. We believe this conflict of interest has been a key factor in MAFFF's laxness in introducing many of the measures needed to protect the public from BSE.

It is high time that consumers became stakeholders in the Whitehall machine. Ruth Evans. Director, National Consumer Council, 20 Grosvenor Gardens, London SW1W 6DH.

**A Country Diary**

TAMAR VALLEY: Beside Tavardon Plantation an alert flock of slender gimmers range close to the hedge, protected from the east wind cutting across from Dartmoor. Nearby, a sheltered tributary of the Tamar drops from 500ft at Vornigo to almost sea-level at Pill Head, one and a half miles downstream. The extremely steep valley side, opposite north-facing oak woods, is separated from plateau fields by a stoned-up bank, riddled with rabbit holes, re-enforced with sheep netting and topped by a trimmed hedge of budding thorn and holly with curatives of lambs tails and prickly gorse, thick with yellow flowers. Princeps daffodils grow on the bank, remnants of cleared market gardens now used for grazing, evidenced by parallel ribbons of bright green sheep tracks across the precipitous slope. Beyond Heathfield, Birchenhays' and Brentwood's steep orchards and daffodil gardens are engulfed by spruce and greening larch, closing in on packing-houses where stone chimneys and

galvanised roofs are collapsing under scrambling ivy. Rows of white narcissi buds, interspersed with clumps of primroses, grow on an open bank and a cherry plum is swathed in creamy white blossom, luminous in the afternoon sun. Closer to the river some daffodils are grown commercially but this is now exceptional. The days when hard-working growers scanned the rows at daybreak for dew shimmering on blades of stray grass and the subsequent deployment of men with hoes are relegated to folk memory. It is no longer profitable to hand-cultivate early flowers and fruit on steep ground and, on the flatter areas, well-drained soils and the generally mild damp climate make the land more suited to pasture for grazing than widespread arable cropping. The very survival of cattle rearing is now in question and back at Heathfield they are resigned to eking out the silage, continuing to feed prime bullocks which currently nobody wants. VIRGINIA SPIERS

صكنا من الاجل



صكنا من الامل

Diary  
Matthew Norman

NOVELTY being a rare and precious flower in the world of public relations, let us raise our hats today to book-praiser Jonathan Woodliff. Faced with the task of launching The Goldfish Bowl, an account of prison life by erstwhile Parkhurst lifer Norman Parker, Mr Woodliff first hired the Groucho Club, but then departed from the usual script by inviting no fewer than eight murderers. Adding Mr Parker, who devoted 24 years to pleasuring Her Majesty after a shooting in 1970, this makes nine — widely believed by experts to be a world record for a book launch. Those struggling to identify the killers on Tuesday night were told to work it out for themselves. Every single suspect put to Mr Woodliff by the likes of Amberon Waugh proved to be one of the several crime reporters in attendance, and the party ended with the anonymity of all eight — old friends of the author from his days doing bird — intact.

AN EU-organised business-conference dinner in Brussels last week, a short, plump German whose badge read European Meat Federation approached a reader of the Diary. "Do you know," said the German, "that your BBC has offered me money to eat beef on TV?" Adding that he said no ("You do not know what they will do with it"), and refusing to elaborate in any way, the German made his farewells and departed.

HAVING worked so hard last week to remove any lingering stain from the reputation of Michael Winner's X-fronts, I am distressed by a juvenile prank in the News of the World. For reasons best known to himself, editor Philip Hall allowed an advert offering help to the incontinent (headlined Bedwetting) to be prominently displayed beside Mr Winner's column last Sunday. This is not the first time I have had cause to upbraid Mr Hall for such a prank at a columnist's expense. Following a recent rebuke over the demolition of Lord Wyatt of Weeford (on one infamous occasion, Woody appeared next to gardening), Mr Hall swiftly found the old boy a permanent spot nearer the front. Let us hope he makes similar amends to Michael for this childish insult.

IN New York, Margaret Healy has been charged with prostitution. Having stripped off and attempted to secure an advance fee of \$150, she discovered her client to be an undercover cop from the vice squad. In mitigation, the court heard the defendant insist that the incident was a one-off. Admitting to running a stable of 10 hookers from her apartment, Mrs Hall, a grandmother of 66, explained that on the day in question she was desperately short-staffed, and had been forced to muck in with the girls.

IN this week of all weeks, our thoughts turn naturally to the spirit, so I am intrigued by the insights of William Shatner in the Radio Times. The Star Trek actor is on splendid form as he turns his mind to the subject of archery. "It can be very mystical," he tells the excellent Andrew Duncan. "There's a book on the Art of Archery, which describes how the unity of the bow, arrow, target and archer all become one — heaven and earth — so the archer knows when to release the arrow." Mr Shatner has more to say on that, but if you say you're into Zen you are not, because you're not supposed to be able to explain it." Aha.

ARLITZ on cannabis-users has run into problems in Cambodia, reports the South China Morning Post. The drug has long been unofficially tolerated, but with French and American encouragement, efforts have been launched to enforce the law more strictly. Early results have been disappointing. "It's been difficult to crack down on offenders, because most are foreigners who tend to smoke marijuana at night," the head of the Phnom Penh drug squad explained. "When our officers are off-duty..."



# Cowardice in the face of the ruling class

## Commentary Martin Kettle

PERSUASIVE security briefing, especially ushering from the painted lips of Dame Stella Rimington, is a difficult thing for an impressionable chap to argue against. If an intelligent lay Health Secretary can find himself powerless to contradict his specialist medical advisers, then what chance is there that a jobbing politician could defy the advice of a security chief who speaks with sweat and whose information is of its very nature, uncontradictable?

and that fresh powers are needed to prevent it, could deny her what she wants? Certainly not Jack Straw, that's clear. Labour's shadow ministers may have played hard to get before Michael Howard called them in to announce his instant-whip anti-terrorism legislation. They may have been told something so horrendously shocking about an imminent IRA outrage and the capacity of fresh powers to prevent it. They may even have persuaded themselves that they were forced to accept some important concessions restricting the police's right to rummage unchallenged in our underwear. But the reality is that they were taken for a ride. We know it. Most MPs know it. And deny it though they must, the shadows probably know it deep down too. Monday's Commons statement and yesterday's blink-and-you-miss-it legislative process were a revealing moment. Jack Straw is neither a fool nor a rogue, but this week he has been a sucker. And if he can be a sucker now, in opposition, then what will be like in government? The greatest fear that anyone can have about a future Labour government is not that they will do a silly thing, a wrong thing or an unsuccessful thing. Those we can take. The real fear is that they

will do nothing. And this week's shabby little shocker, to purloin a phrase from an early review of Tosca, sends just such an awful shiver down the spine. The first time I ever sat through a parliamentary debate was in November 1974 when the Wilson government rushed the first Prevention of Terrorism Act through the Commons. It was an evening which is hard to forget, especially for Roy Jenkins's speech in which he described the bill as draconian and unprecedented in peacetime. The whole debate, it is worth remembering, was predicated on the fact that the act would be strictly temporary, and that in no way was it the thin end of the legislative wedge. Twenty-two years on, we know better. The PTA has become permanent. The powers of detention and questioning which were so unprecedented have now been written into the Police and Criminal Evidence Act. The accretion of powers — of which yesterday's package was the latest instalment — goes inexorably on. And in those 22 years has terrorism been prevented? Cpe F O'Neill's latest bomb warning. That debate in 1974 was full of warnings about the dangers of ill-considered emergency legislation. I was never a great personal fan of all the Labour MPs who uttered

them, some of whom managed to combine their indignant concern for civil liberties in Britain with a lifelong blindness towards the achievements of the Soviet Union. But the fact remains that they were right on every count about the PTA. Like the equally-quickly-rushed Official Secrets Act of 1911, another supposedly temporary measure, the PTA was not to last. It was a political gesture forced on a weak Labour government by the police and MI5 as part of a bigger agenda of their own devising — and it didn't prevent terrorism. Police failure is frequently the midwife of fresh police powers, but unfortunately police powers are rarely the midwife of police success. This is not a complete argument against police powers, which self-evidently have a necessary place. But it ought to encourage an appropriate modesty and reflection among

vention of Terrorism Act failed to prevent their terrorism. That, above all, is what is wrong with it. Such concerns, though, are far from Labour's mind these days. Tony Blair and Jack Straw were embarrassed by their party's latterday opposition to the PTA because it was a hole in their otherwise tightly constructed defences. It enabled the Conservatives to paint Labour, scandalously, as soft on terrorism. Their conclusion, 30-something points ahead, was not to scorn such contemptible sneers but to close the loophole. That was why they abstained on the PTA renewal debate last month. When they did that, Michael Howard had got them. When Labour had cringed once, they were committed to a policy of cringe

# The pill men find hard to swallow



Francis Cottam

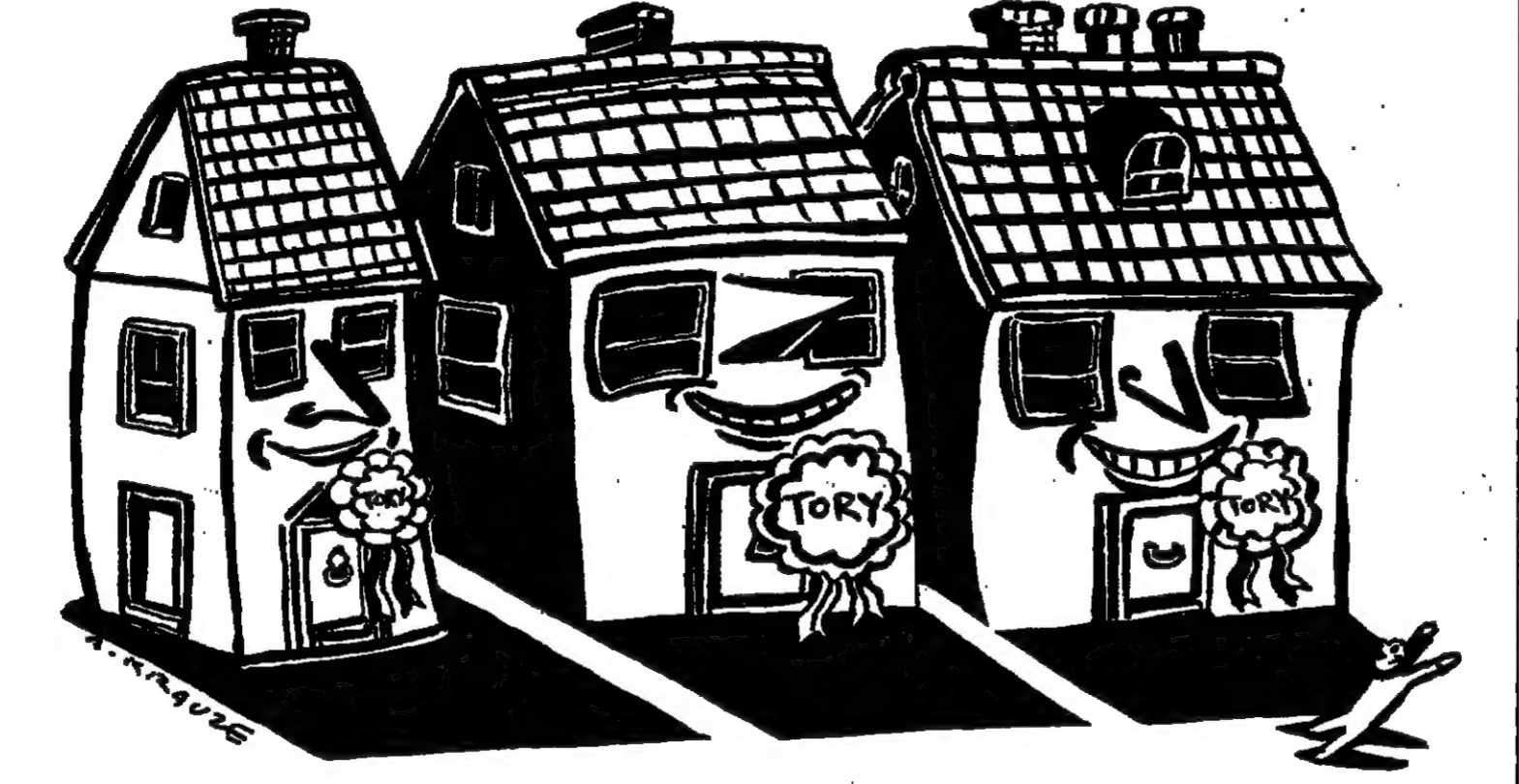
PICTURE the holidaying football hooligan on the brink of sexual conquest. He's got her in overproof rum. He's got her to his room. He's got her on to the bed and out of most of her clothes. Then, his tumescent tackle poised under his beard, she hesitates: "It's a one-night stand-off. He belches and whimpers: "It's all right, love, I'm on the pill." Breathing a sigh of relief, she surrenders to their mutual passion. The breakthrough in male contraception made public yesterday makes this scenario entirely plausible. And this, it strikes me, is where it will achieve its most spectacular domestic successes. Wherever British men gather to get drunk and brown, an improbable proportion of them will claim to be taking the male pill. Whole regiments of British squaddies will share leave swearing blind that they no longer possess the firepower to make babies. They are unlikely to be telling the truth. Some men — a lot of men — get to the business end of a sexual negotiation willing to say anything that will get them that critical bit further. Will this undermining male sexual credibility? Not really. Because many men have no sexual credibility left to undermine.

ing even more of this unhappy hormone into our already tonsorially challenged lives? Well, no, actually. The male pill also threatens us with an increase in weight and the loss of muscle definition inevitable with a raised body fat percentage. Women who have for years been burdened by the added weight and water-retention problems that are side-effects of their pill might think there is an element of natural justice in all this. But a man who does 200 sit-ups a day to buff his stomach to washboard hardness will not welcome the change. Call me a pathetic narcissist, but I want to look like the bloke in the Calvin Klein ads — not Bob Hoskins in his "Good to Talk" guise. There is a serious psychological aspect to the subject of the male pill. The poet Benjamin Zephaniah has spoken movingly about the correlation between his male self-esteem and his own problem of infertility. Male self-image can be strongly linked to sexual potency. Will our evaluation of ourselves be diminished by a diminished sperm count? For some men the answer is clearly going to be yes. These are the men who play procreantorial Russian roulette with the women in their lives because they feel a condom makes them unmanly. They are too selfish, too lacking in confidence, ever to take a male pill. Others, who will make an probably in for an unpleasant emotional surprise.

THE male pill clearly isn't for every man. At least, taking it isn't. Lying about it is easy. Halfway through a Benetton night, it could be lied about with the kind of glibly fluent expertise which men magically acquire after a surprisingly small quantity of stronger lager. Taking it is something wholly different, infinitely trickier. Taking it requires confidence, individuality, the capacity for negotiation in a relationship and — because of those potential side-effects — a good deal of self-sacrifice. And it won't be a fashionable thing to do. We are relying less — not more — on conventional medicine. Let's do something stereotypically male and reduce this polemic to the level of the car metaphor. The taker of the male pill is much more the classic auto enthusiast than the boy racer revving at the lights. At the wheel of his Citroen DS he may risk occasional derision and the threat of breakdown. But he has his own driving standards, his own lofty code of the road. He is never going to convert that supercharged cretin, itchy for red to turn to amber, poised behind his bull bars tapping the wheel and listening to Whitney. But, frankly, he doesn't give a toss.

The two most compelling imperatives for taking the male pill appear to be the economic havoc wreaked among men by the Child Support Agency, and the health havoc wreaked among women by the traditional (female) contraceptive pill. But these are flawed motives. Most men whose lifestyles have been sabotaged by the CSA planned the children for whom they are being penalised. And a pattern of long-term health problems associated with the pill only emerged after almost 30 years. We just don't know the long-term effects of interfering with male testosterone levels. Research laboratories are not equipped with crystal balls. (In the circumstances, a perhaps unfortunate phrase.) The new male pill works because it reduces sperm potency through weekly injections of the hormone testosterone. Too much testosterone is one of the chief causes of male baldness and of being excessively hirsute elsewhere — the shoulders, for example, and the upper back. So most men are going to be overjoyed, aren't we, at invit-

Francis Cottam is executive editor of Men's Health magazine



# Semi-detached voters

Larry Elliott argues that the upward drift of house prices is too little, too late to woo disillusioned home-owners back into the Tory embrace

GOOD Friday is to estate agents what the Glorious Twelfth is to grouse-shooters. It's the big day of the year, the moment when eager home-hunters shake off their winter gloom and set off in the time-honoured British pursuit of bricks and mortar. The living rooms of Middle England will again be awash with the aroma of freshly ground coffee, some tasteful classical will be placed on the CD, and the children's toys will be stuffed in the cupboard under the stairs. If you believe estate agents — which, of course, nobody does — 1996 will be the year in which the housing market emerges from the doldrums. The seven-year recession is over, and the strength of pent-up demand means that prices are certain to go up. So buy now while stocks last.

bet has fostered a "something-for-nothing" culture in which tax-free capital gains on the house-price inflation are seen as a God-given right. Twice in the last 25 years Britain has been gripped by collective madness in which people have assumed that house prices can rise by 30 per cent a year without any detrimental side-effects on the rest of the economy. The grim recessions of 1974-5 and 1980-2 show that this is not only a dangerous fallacy but harms some of the most vulnerable members of society, not least the homeless. We should need no further lessons. The Government knows all this. It knows that any economic expansion should be aimed at investment, export and jobs rather than consumption financed by the paper profits of house-price inflation. But it is also acutely aware that the torpor in the housing market has damaged its standing with voters. For nervous housebuyers, the politics of the housing market are simple: get prices up and buy some voters.

There are still more than a million households where the property is worth less than the outstanding mortgage. It is unlikely that these sufferers from negative equity will forgive the Government in a hurry. But negative equity only affects a minority of owner-occupiers. Conservative strategists might still think they could win by targeting voters who bought before the last months of the Lawson boom. Here the outlook is more promising, though not very much. While it is certain that the Chancellor will ensure, as far as he can, that the cost of home loans does not go up before the election, any recovery in the housing market is probably too little, too late for the political miracle the Government now needs. The Halifax is predicting a rise in house prices of 2 per cent this year, and although the society recognises that that forecast is probably too cautious, it says that there is no chance of a boom. One reason for this is that there is a vast overhang of unsold properties which will start to come on to the market as soon as potential vendors believe that prices are starting to pick up. Any increase in supply will blunt the rise in demand. A second factor is that buyers are being deterred by the risk of losing their jobs. Despite the Government's attempts to suggest that job insecurity is merely a state of mind, that's not the way it feels to the average first-time buyer or the family thinking of trading up to a bigger home.

For once it looks like reasonable advice. House prices have been creeping up for the past eight months, and the increase in March was the biggest for two years. The reduction in mortgage rates since last autumn and the plethora of deals offered by banks and building societies are starting to tempt wary buyers back into the market. This raises two points — one political, one economic. Will a more buoyant housing market provide the key to a Conservative revival, the elusive Factor X that will trigger a surge in consumer confidence and general well-being? And could the economy cope with a 1980s-style boom without inevitably suffering a 1990s-style bust?

Seven or eight years on. There are still more than a million households where the property is worth less than the outstanding mortgage. It is unlikely that these sufferers from negative equity will forgive the Government in a hurry. But negative equity only affects a minority of owner-occupiers. Conservative strategists might still think they could win by targeting voters who bought before the last months of the Lawson boom. Here the outlook is more promising, though not very much. While it is certain that the Chancellor will ensure, as far as he can, that the cost of home loans does not go up before the election, any recovery in the housing market is probably too little, too late for the political miracle the Government now needs. The Halifax is predicting a rise in house prices of 2 per cent this year, and although the society recognises that that forecast is probably too cautious, it says that there is no chance of a boom. One reason for this is that there is a vast overhang of unsold properties which will start to come on to the market as soon as potential vendors believe that prices are starting to pick up. Any increase in supply will blunt the rise in demand. A second factor is that buyers are being deterred by the risk of losing their jobs. Despite the Government's attempts to suggest that job insecurity is merely a state of mind, that's not the way it feels to the average first-time buyer or the family thinking of trading up to a bigger home.

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REMEMBER eight years ago meeting a man who announced at the end of a meal that his house had appreciated £10,000 that week so he was going to borrow £25,000 to buy a Porsche. Someone else said he was getting a friend, a third that he owed £9,000 on his credit card. You could smell the self-satisfaction and greed around that table. Yet if the merry-go-round of rampant house-price inflation starts again, it's odds-on that most politicians and the establishment press will welcome it as the elusive "feel good" factor. The fact that the 1980s get-rich-quick, money-for-nothing, conspicuous-consumption culture divided Britain, polarised families, fuelled destruction of the environment and pushed the most vulner-

able to the very edges of society will be forgotten. We are still living with the downside of 1980s greed, when money became a simplistic measure of worth and the idea of service was replaced with under-investment in new plant and technology is partly the result of the obsession with housing, which has sucked up a large chunk of available personal savings. In addition, the idea that the property market is a one-way

polls suggest that money has little to do with quality of life, but a lot to do with security — of place, work, family, health, history, even time. These are cultural issues that have been pushed out of the vocabulary of blinkered politicians, and governments seem fearful or just incompetent to address them. So when your average politician argues in the next few months that we need house prices to leap in order to fuel a "growing" economy, beware: what he (inevitably) means is that he has absolutely no vision of how an economy could possibly be run without people being encouraged to buy more, eat more, import more, travel more, burn more, build more, consume more, inflate more. Destroy more.

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Battle talk... Brigadier Harvey (left) with military chiefs at Gabès Gap, Tunisia, in April 1943

Roscoe Harvey

Horseman at war

BRIGADIER C B "Roscoe" Harvey, who has died aged 85, interrupted his lifelong love affair with horses to serve as the British Army's most dashing frontline tank commander in the second world war, winning three DSOs.

time the survivors withdrew, the 8th Army was safely in position for the decisive attack on Rommel... and Harvey had his first DSO as well as his brigade.

DURING the Normandy invasion, he led the 28th Armoured Brigade in the 11th Armoured Division, which went into action just after D-Day.

Harvey won his third DSO when he led his brigade into the south-western Netherlands, leading from the front as usual.

Rosemary Say

Drama sense

ROSEMARY SAY, who has died aged 76, was a no-nonsense critic whose theatre diary, Show Talk in the Sunday Telegraph, and Queen magazine column were read from the 1950s into the 1970s.

mind. A familiar figure at first nights, she was always more at ease on stage than in either the auditorium or theatre bars.

poeted to the embassy in Madrid supervising agents and meeting escaping airman at the French border.

Rosemary Say, drama critic and SOE operator, born March 30, 1919; died February 6, 1996

Birthdays

Prof Janet Bately, English scholar, 64; Tony Benn, MP, former Labour minister, 71; Marion Brande, actor, 72; Charlotte Coleman, actress, 28; Doris Day, actress and singer, 72; William Gammell, actor, 58; Hebraut Kohl, German Chancellor, 66; Jonathan Lynn, director, actor and author, 53; Eddie Murphy, actor, 38; Sir John Smith, CH, former MP, founder Landmark Trust, 78; Richard Thompson, rock guitarist and songwriter, 47; Sir Malcolm Troland, Conservative MP, 67; Prof Kathleen Tillotson, English scholar, 90; John Virgo, snooker player, 57; Sir Michael Woodruff, kidney transplant pioneer, 85.

Jackdaw



Book choice

WHEN WE FOUND [The Academy], seven years ago, we resolved membership should be restricted to writers whose work was judged of sufficiently high standard.

talent for writing? One major step was a blanket ban on poets. Those with no experience of poets will have little idea of the gloom they cast.

canal, and for 12 years I have conceived the communication of United Colors of Benetton. For a long time United Colors of Benetton has chosen to use a large part of its advertising budget to address the most dramatic problems of this century: AIDS, war, racism, intolerance.

struggle in the name of an idea. We believe that an ideal brightens the eye and lights up the faces of those who fight to realise it.

Jeffrey Lee Pierce

Alternative American

THE death of Jeffrey Lee Pierce, leader of the Gun Club, is premature yet not altogether surprising.

A Texas transplant to the West Coast, Pierce formed his band, originally named Creeping Ritual, in Los Angeles in 1978.

But mixed in with his enthusiasm for the blues was an underlying passion for the blues. It was the primal earthiness of this most fundamental of American musical forms, which underpinned Pierce's entire career.

store and wrote about music for punk-inspired fanzines. Failing into line behind Pierce, the original Gun Club line-up comprised guitarist Kid Congo Powers (real name Brian Tristan), bassist Rob Ritzer and drummer Terry Graham.

The blues were curiously covers of Robert Johnson's Preaching The Blues and Tommy Johnson's Cool Drink of Water, while titles like Sex Beat and She's Like Heroin To Me gave casual browsers the gist of the Gun Club's message.



Pierce... modern blues

with Animal Records for the second album, Miami. His teenage infatuation with Blondie paid dividends as the label was owned by Blondie's guitarist/songwriter Chris Stein, who produced the album.

close to equalling it. They released a couple of dodgy live albums, Sex Beat 81 and The Birth, The Death, The Ghost, and Pierce made the unimpressive Death Party EP in New York in 1983 with a part-time Gun Club line-up.

Adam Sweeting Jeffrey Lee Pierce, musician, born June 27, 1958; died March 31, 1996

Alistair Crombie

Science of the past

ALISTAIR Crombie, who has died aged 80, was one of the world's leading historians of science, focusing on the methods and modes of scientific thinking and reasoning as they developed within medieval and early modern Europe.

In his monumental and much-praised Styles of Scientific Thinking in The European Tradition (1994) he made comparative analysis of the forms of scientific reasoning beginning with the Greek search for the principles of nature. It distilled a lifetime's work, revealed Crombie's abiding interest in the history of theories of the senses and echoed his earlier work in biology and in particular the physiology and epistemology of vision and hearing, and their relation to the visual and musical arts.

and in the work that occupied much of the last 30 years of his life.

Crombie was born in Brisbane, into a Scottish family which owned land in Australia, but spent most of his life in England and more than half of that in Oxford.

In 1948 he took up a post at University College, London, where he co-founded the British Journal For The Philosophy of Science and became its first editor.



Crombie...invigorating

subject was elected a fellow of Trinity College, and retired in 1983. His first book Augustine To Galileo: The History of Science AD 400-1650 was published in 1982 and expanded in 1989.

and change in the European scientific tradition.

Awarded the Galileo Prize in 1964, Crombie became a leading authority on that figure. He died with Galileo's Arguments and Disputes in Natural Philosophy, and Martin's Science, Music and Language, unpublished. Long in the writing, they produced much invigorating controversy in the process.

Alistair Crombie has left an indelible mark on the practice of the history of science both in Oxford, where the personal archives of those who did not share his vision often prevailed over good sense, and in the world at large. He had a great circle of friends; was president of the Académie Internationale d'Histoire des Sciences, held visiting professorships in the US, Paris and Tokyo, and lectured in Europe, Australia and India.

Alistair Crombie, historian of science, born November 4, 1915; died February 9, 1996

Dario Bellezza

Dead poet's society

IN 1961 Dario Bellezza published a book about the death of his mentor, the film-maker and poet Pier Paolo Pasolini. It was more of a reflection on poets and death in general than an investigation into the circumstances of Pasolini's murder.



Bellezza...chosen angel

Bellezza, who has died of AIDS aged 51. As a young man in Rome he became an intimate friend of Pasolini's and was later to be his chosen angel.

But he found the experience humiliating, telling me that when Pasolini saw him on the set looking sad he laughed and said "What? Don't you appreciate that I've given you two cute guardian angels?"

But he found the experience humiliating, telling me that when Pasolini saw him on the set looking sad he laughed and said "What? Don't you appreciate that I've given you two cute guardian angels?"

Bellezza was never comfortable as a public figure. But he relished invitations to provincial events. I remember him coming to Cosenza, the city where I spend much of my own time: after a poetry seminar at the university, we went to a gallery opening where Bellezza, adorned in semi-drag, was the toast of the evening.

John Francis Lane Dario Bellezza, poet, born September 5, 1944; died March 31, 1996

had been working on My Aids, the story of his illness. In recent years he had lived alone in an apartment in Trastevere, purchased by his father, who had been heartbroken that his son was a victim of what many Italians still call the "gay plague".

Bellezza was adopted as a candidate for the Ulivo, Italy's centre-left coalition in the forthcoming elections. His inclusion was a guarantee of sorts to gay militants threatening to vote against the left for not openly supporting their cause.

John Francis Lane Dario Bellezza, poet, born September 5, 1944; died March 31, 1996

Death Notices

BOLAND, Gabriella Mary, eldest daughter of Mr & Mrs E Boland, aged a vibrant 82 years, died peacefully at home with her husband, Oswald, on 28th March 1996. Burial at St. Mary's Church, Bournemouth. A private funeral service will be held at 11.00 am on 2nd April followed by a public funeral service at 11.00 am at St. Mary's Church, Bournemouth. Family Services 0187 574 778.

To place your announcement telephone 0171 733 4887. Fax 0171 733 4128.

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North... gh investm... ver £148m

Financial Editor: Alex Brummer  
Telephone: 0171-239-9610  
Fax: 0171-833-4456

# Finance Guardian

## Northern Rock set to float

**Cliff Jones**  
**T**HE seismic shake-up in Britain's financial services sector was set to intensify last night with the Northern Rock Building Society poised to become a bank.

players like Abbey National, Halifax/Leeds, Woolwich and Alliance and Leicester. Northern Rock savers and borrowers are expected to receive at least 2500 worth of free shares from the planned £700 million flotation.

Robert Dickinson, Northern Rock's chairman, said at last year's AGM that the society should "seek to remain North-East based, independent and, as long as it remains in the interests of members in the longer term, a mutual organisation."

style conversion. Earlier this year the society raised the minimum opening balance on qualifying member accounts from £250 to £2,500 in an effort to deter speculative investors hoping for a windfall if it did become a plc.

societies and will come as good news to many Northern Rock savers and borrowers. "Carpetbaggers" who opened accounts with the Halifax before the crucial cut-off date will receive a pay-out of 2500 free shares when the society's shares begin trading on the Stock Exchange in early 1997.

contenders in the banking industry. Other organisations which could follow Northern Rock include the Britannia, which with assets of £13.5 billion would be better equipped as a bank. Bristol & West, also tipped to become a bank, would have more of a struggle with only £8.1 billion.

### Notebook

## Tell the truth or face the music



Edited by Patrick Donovan

**T**HE Woolwich's cryptic statement about the departure of its high-profile chief executive poses far more questions than it answers.

For Peter Robinson's resignation (if that is what it was) badly damages the credibility of Britain's third biggest building society at a critical period in its business.

This is going to cost the Woolwich dear. Whatever the real reason for his departure, the society's image will be badly damaged at a time when societies are falling over themselves for a stock market listing.

It would appear that there are deep management divisions within Woolwich, as Mr Robinson appears to have been ousted in a boardroom coup. Whether other heads will roll was last night a matter of conjecture.

The Woolwich would be well advised to make a full disclosure about the reasons leading up to Mr Robinson's departure.

on stream in 1999. But this will demand huge cuts in public spending if countries have any chance of meeting the strict qualifying benchmarks on budget deficit for single currency to proceed.

Not only are public debt ratios across the EU at least 10 percentage points above the single currency benchmark of 60 per cent, but they will rise still further over the coming year.

The EMU is right when it points out that the current year will be of crucial importance in paving the way towards monetary union. But if this involves slamming on the economic brakes, it may prove to be a process no member state can afford.

**Expand for jobs**  
**H**ERE'S a prediction. It's 1986 and the Group of Seven is holding its third jobs summit. The venue is Newcastle upon Tyne, close to the constituency of the Prime Minister, Tony Blair.

Far from falling since the last get-together in Lille two years earlier, unemployment in the industrial West has continued to rise. But the agenda drawn up for Newcastle says there are no quick fixes and that only by structural reforms of labour markets and cutting budget deficits can jobs be created.

Of course, it may never happen. The rebuffed wish of micro-economic measures served up by the G7 yesterday may provide the route back to full employment. In two years' time we may be on the brink of a new Golden Age.

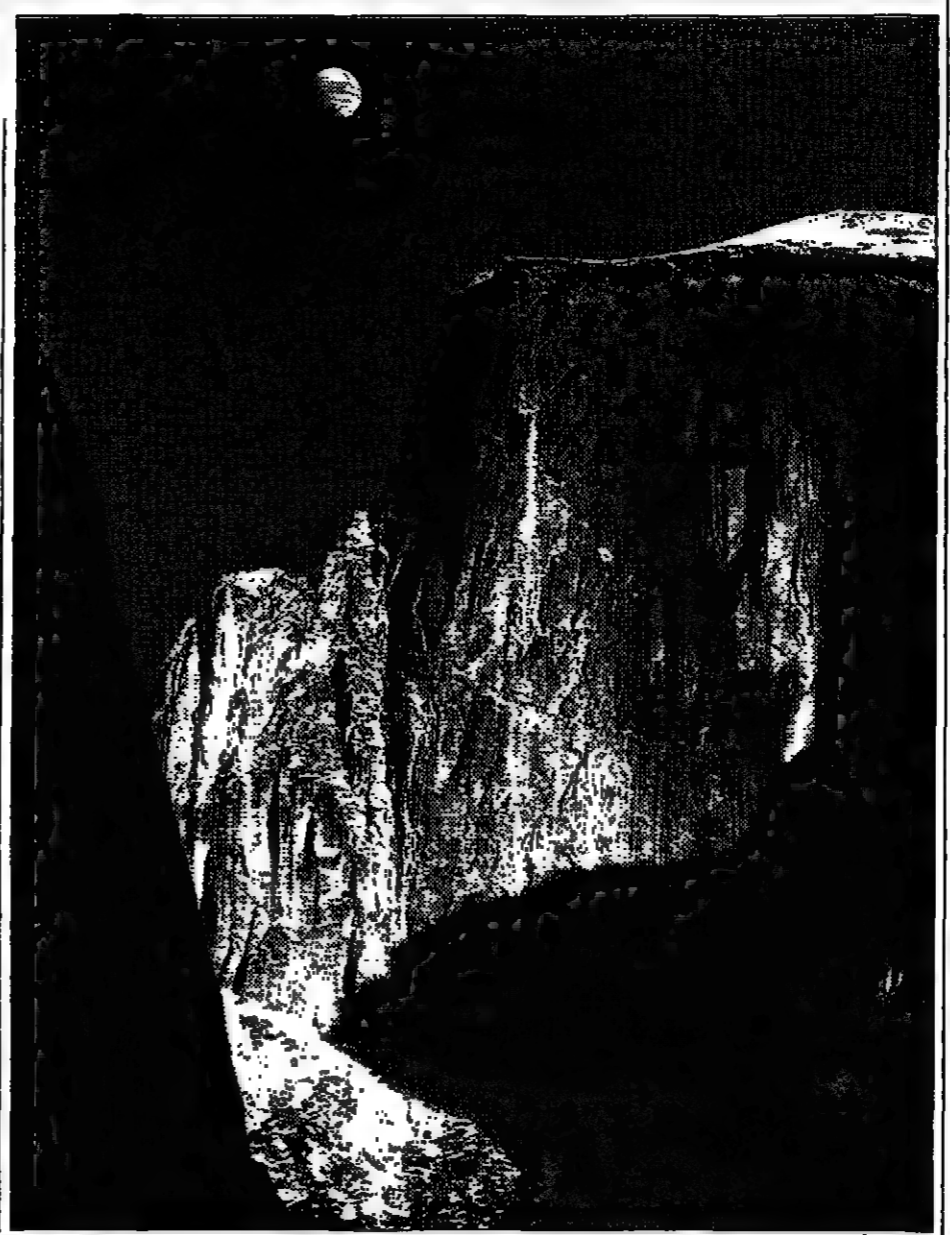


Take that... Ansel Adams, captured below by fellow photographer Cedric Wright, took the classic Moon and Half Dome (right) in Yosemite Valley in 1900. Now the digital rights to 2,500 of his pictures have gone to Corbis

### Computer king Bill Gates puts his digit on work of Ansel Adams

**MULTI-BILLIONAIRE** Bill Gates has captured the digital rights to the published works of Ansel Adams, the American generally regarded as the century's leading fine-art photographer, writes Nicholas Bannister.

more than \$1 million a year in royalties on published pictures, persuaded Corbis to drop its usual policy of only taking non-exclusive rights.



## High investment drives Rover £148m into red

**Chris Barrie**  
**I**NVESTMENT in new cars and factories drove Rover into the red last year as its parent, the German company BMW, warned that it could not forecast when the UK firm would return to profit.

Rover's finances are likely to continue to suffer from depreciation charges while huge investment from BMW continues, as the Munich-based firm strives to reverse years of underdevelopment.

But Rover said last night that the losses were due to conservative German accounting standards. The company said depreciation charges on companies making large investments. The company said depreciation accounted for £135 million of the £148 million book loss.

## Tarmac set to axe 1,000 jobs after Wimpey asset swap

**Tony May**  
**T**ARMAC, the construction group which last month completed a £500 million asset swap with housebuilder George Wimpey, is poised to axe up to 1,000 jobs after predicting that the deal will bring more savings than at first thought.

## Water on the brain as United donates £1m for research

**Firm's 'madness' academic for 2,500 put out of work, reports Martyn Halsall**  
**U**NITED Utilities, the combined water and electricity firm that came under renewed fire last week for axing 2,500 jobs, is to donate £1 million to a university research project — on fulfilment at work.

transfer of technology from a university to a company guaranteed a ringside seat on contemporary research. It was uncertain yesterday whether the Manchester chair will bear the title of United Utilities, the UK's first multi-utility formed from North West Water's takeover of the regional electric company Norweb.

## France and Germany decline to bid for Mercury

**Nicholas Bannister Technology Editor**  
**S**HARES in British Telecom and Cable & Wireless came down with a bump yesterday after France Telecom and Deutsche Telekom said they were not interested in buying Mercury Communications.

the huge rise in the companies' shares over the past week. C&W closed 9p down at 529p while BT ended the day 7p lower at 375.5p.

carrier in the US. Deutsche Telekom was among the handful of companies which expressed an interest in buying Mercury at the end of last year. Among the others were a consortium headed by Nyxet, the big US regional phone group with cable interests in the UK; AT&T, the biggest US telecom group; and BCE, the Bell Canada group which already owns 20 per cent of Mercury.

## Airbus plans 'superjumbo' — with a Big Mac to follow

**Keith Harper**  
**P**LANS for a new European "superjumbo" capable of carrying up to 600 passengers and rivaling Boeing's jumbos were announced yesterday by Airbus Industrie, the four-nation consortium behind a project which would cost at least £6 billion.

that the decision represented a new stage in its strategy "to meet all the demands of the market for large, civilian carriers." He also forecast a market of more than 1,300 large carrier planes within 20 years, worth around £200 billion.

TOURIST RATES — BANK SELLS

Australia 1.853	France 7.49	Italy 2.344	Singapore 2.925
Austria 13.27	Germany 2.18	Malta 0.5375	South Africa 5.91
Belgium 44.88	Greece 335.20	Netherlands 2.45	Spain 133.75
Canada 2.013	Hong Kong 11.58	New Zealand 2.1875	Sweden 9.986
Cyprus 0.8775	India 51.33	Norway 8.33	Switzerland 1.703
Denmark 6.48	Ireland 0.84	Portugal 227.00	Turkey 25.900
Finland 6.995	Israel 4.74	Saudi Arabia 5.69	USA 1.49

Supplied by NatWest Bank (excluding Indian rupee and Israeli shekel)

# Pain before a single currency, says EMI

Ian Traynor in Frankfurt

COUNTRIES hoping to join a single European currency in three years' time face tough public spending cuts, fiscal tightening and reduced social security spending, the head of the European Monetary Institute warned yesterday.

This is despite record unemployment levels and economic slowdown across the European Union.

Presenting the annual report of the Frankfurt-based EMI, forerunner of the European Central Bank, Baron Alexandre Lamfalussy said there was a "substantial probability that monetary union will start in 1999. The road leading to that situation will be a bumpy road and the choices to be made won't be easy."

"Fiscal, budgetary, and social security policies require very difficult decisions from the governments."

On the simmering row between EU members over how to define the relationship between those qualifying for and opting to join a single currency and those EU members left outside, Baron Lamfalussy said the EMI yesterday agreed on proposals he would put to EU finance ministers and central bankers in Verona, Italy, next week.

Germany and France are pushing for a tied relationship between the Euro-club and those outside the single currency, through a revamped exchange rate mechanism, but Britain is opposed to this.

Mr Lamfalussy said a settlement of the issue was crucial and that the in-out dilemma "could become a very difficult problem to handle".

The EMI report said: "The main challenge for the EU is fiscal consolidation. Public finances are the weakest point of convergence."

Despite austerity measures designed to meet the criteria

for public debt and budget deficits, to pass the single currency test, public debt ratios across the EU rose last year to an average of more than 70 per cent of gross domestic product, well above the single currency benchmark of 60 per cent, the EMI noted. It predicted debt ratio levels this year of 72 per cent.

More ominously for a successful launch of the single currency on schedule at the beginning of 1999, average budget deficits last year stood at 4.7 per cent, more than 50 per cent above the criterion of 3 per cent.

The EMI forecast deficit levels this year of an average 3.8 per cent, but warned that the key European economy, Germany, could record a worse deficit, raising more doubts about Germany's ability to qualify for a project of which it is the most ardent advocate.

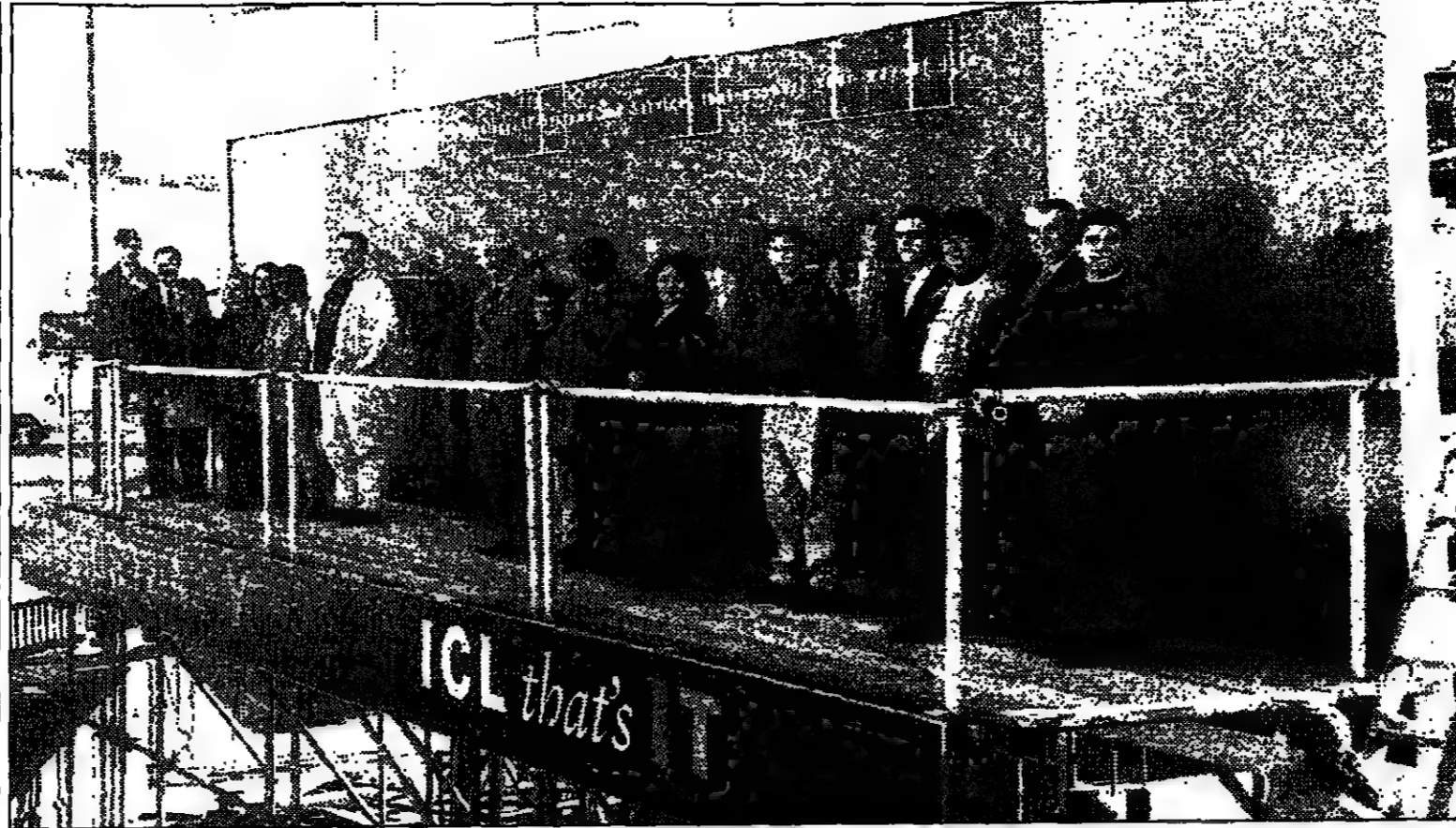
The EMI urged fast-track austerity programmes, arguing that "a strategy of too gradual improvements in fiscal policies stretched over a longer period of time risks failing to gain credibility."

"The year 1996 will be of crucial importance in paving the way towards monetary union," the report added. "The absolute continuation of appropriate economic policies is a *sine qua non* for achieving further progress towards sustainable convergence."

"It is important not to postpone structural measures, particularly in the field of public finances."

Despite two consecutive quarters of falling GDP in Germany, the EMI dismissed talk of a new EU-wide recession, preferring to adopt the German government's characterisation of a "pause in growth".

It was clear from the report, however, that the gloom economic outlook, coupled with soaring unemployment rates to an EU average of 11 per cent, should not tempt governments into trying to spend their way out of trouble.



Live and posing... Some of those who have taken part in an ICL CyberSkills course swap the information superhighway for a spot by London's busy Cromwell Road to advertise the benefits of new technology by standing in front of their own pictures as part of a living poster. PHOTOGRAPH: GRAHAM TURNER

## Moore's pin hopes on revamping stores

### Outlook

Patrick Donovan

WHATEVER the real story behind the Littlewoods shareholders' revolt, the 32 family members who control the £1 billion stores group appear to have buried their differences and rallied behind the incumbent management.

Four months ago, the younger members of the Moores clan had made it clear that they were prepared to sell the business to the highest bidder. Their dissatisfaction encouraged at least three publicly announced takeover approaches — most noticeably from a former Littlewoods chief executive, Barry Dale.

For all the bluster, the family voted resoundingly to keep the group in private hands at last December's extraordinary General Meeting.

There have been no further approaches since then. Littlewoods managers said yesterday. Nor have even the most cash-strapped — a relative term when it comes to the Moores — expressed interest in selling any shares from a special pool set up to allow family members to realise some of their assets.

Instead, the family appears to be pinning its hopes on a restructuring aimed at transforming the business over the next five years. That should be quite a task judging by the announcement of a 16 per cent fall in pre-tax profits to £97.3 million for the year to December 31. Stripping out exceptional gains of £18.5 million from property and other business sales, the overall operating profits are even less impressive, down from £107.6 million to £77.7 million.

Littlewoods' problems are two-fold. First, its leisure operation, which includes pools and sports-halls, has been hampered by competition from the National Lottery.

Sales were down by around 35 per cent at the year-end, operating profits from £26.3 million to £33.7 million. And the downturn looks set to continue for the foreseeable future, says group chief executive Bill Huntley — despite moves to expand its National Charity scratchcard.

Second, there is little to impress within the retail division, which includes the main stores group and the Littlewoods Home Shopping empire. Sales have risen by a credible 4.7 per cent, with Littlewoods managing to increase its share of a depressed market. The division's operating profits have fallen from £77.3 million to £73.3 million, largely reflecting the sharp increase in bad debt that now accounts for around 5 per cent of all sales from home shopping. The company attributes this to hard-pressed households finding it difficult to pay their bills. But it also reflects badly on Littlewoods' management controls. Mr Huntley admits checks on

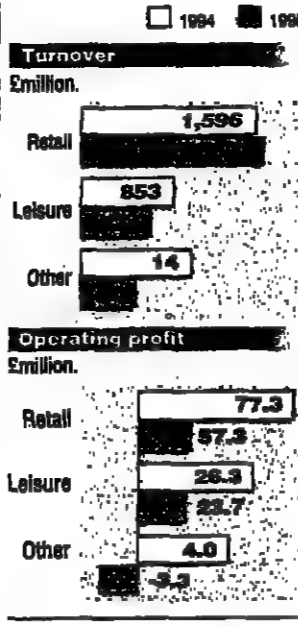
customers are being tightened.

On their own account, the main stores have seen operating profits fall from £24.5 million to £17.9 million, with the business suffering from low consumer confidence. At the separate Index catalogue shopping chain, losses at the operating level have grown slightly to £7.3 million.

Mr Huntley's remedy lies in the £21 million provision put aside for restructuring costs to help turn the retail operations around. He insists that the company is just one year into a "transformation" that will reap significant profit growth within five years.

The question remains why it took the threat of a family revolt for the management to take action on a deteriorating performance. Littlewoods has yet to prove the case that it can thrive as a privately-run family company. And that's an important issue not just for its employees but the whole of Merseyside.

### Littlewoods Organisation



## Don who found secret Italy

JOHN HOOPER in Rome meets the man who put the 'sorpasso' in the punditry

FOR a man who dealt perhaps the heaviest blow to British self-esteem since Dunkirk, Professor Guido Rey has a disconcertingly British air.

From the top of his horn-rimmed spectacles to the tip of his brogue, he looks like an Oxbridge don.

Professor Rey is nowadays responsible for introducing computers into the Italian administration. But his fame stems from when he was president of the national statistical office, Istat.

In 1987, it was he who decided to include an estimate for the hidden economy in Italy's output figures.

The effect was dramatic. It sent his country's GDP per capita soaring past Britain's and enabled Italian commentators to celebrate gleefully over what they dubbed the *sorpasso*, or overtaking.

In his office near the Villa Borghese, Professor Rey said it all began with the 1981 census. "One could see, for example, that there were houses — a not inconsiderable number of houses — which, according to the production statistics, had never been built."

Construction, together with road distribution, is reckoned to be the most flourishing sector in what Italians term the *economia sommersa*, or submerged economy. This is usually held to include not only activity which is unrecorded, but also that which is illegal.

Nine years ago, Professor Rey and his colleagues came to the conclusion that what they dubbed "irregular activity" (ie the non-criminal part of the submerged economy) accounted for 16 per cent of total production. A fresh calculation is being made now on the basis of detailed returns from the 1991 census.

Professor Rey said it was impossible to know whether Italians had created a bigger or smaller hidden economy than in other countries "because we're the only ones who've had the courage to bring it out into the open". He nevertheless agreed that the Italian economy was unusually fragmented and that having a large proportion of small businesses seemed to be conducive to a high level of hidden activity. But why such fragmentation?

"There are any number of possible reasons," said Pro-



essor Rey. "There has been a high level of unemployment. When people cannot get regular jobs they find something else to do. There is the supposed reluctance of Italians to be regimented. It is, if you like, the extension of a peasant society."

But more important, he thought, was to view the problem from the opposite end and ask why so few big firms had emerged in Italy.

There was a legislative framework inimical to big business, which was partly the result of almost half a century of leadership by Christian Democrats, who aimed at promoting the family.

There was a financial structure that was good at giving birth to new firms but poor at ensuring they survived. Then there was the failure of big firms themselves to remain free of bureaucracy.

Three years ago, Professor Rey lamented that the main effect of his decision had been a "sterile and somewhat idiosyncratic" controversy over Italy's place on the GDP-per-capita totem pole. He stressed that it should have prompted a thorough re-think.

Politicians had failed to grasp that the size of Italy's hidden economy was at the root of budget problems, and also affected monetary policy. "What we have is a tax system that only affects the non-hidden economy, but which has to support a system of social security that covers both the hidden and the non-hidden parts," he said.

"The growth of money is matched to the growth of the 'official' economy. But money is also needed for the 'unofficial' economy. So what do you get? A relative shortage of money which, in turn, can have a deflationary effect on the economy as a whole."

Tomorrow: Falck by design

### News in brief

#### Granada channels media into one act

GRANADA confirmed plans yesterday to form a new division, Granada Media Group, to manage its television and other media interests.

The division will be chaired by Charles Allen, who said it would be an organisation within which new acquisitions could be fitted and one which would develop businesses outside the ITV network.

Granada is expected to launch its own national pay television channel this autumn and to snap up rival ITV group Yorkshire Tyne-Tees when regulations permit. — Ian King

#### £1m more for Zeneca chiefs

BOARDROOM pay has jumped £1 million at science group Zeneca where profits slipped £40 million to £619 million last year. The latest accounts of the UK's third biggest pharmaceuticals company show that the board collected £3.19 million in pay, bonuses and pension payments, compared with £2.16 million a year ago.

The pay rise — shared among the group's five executive directors — was boosted by a £420,000 payment to Tony Rodgers on the loss of his job as executive director responsible for human resources and public affairs.

Sir Denys Henderson, who retired as chairman in May 1995 and left the company altogether last September, received £288,000 in the year, down from £342,000. Sir Sydney Lipworth, his successor as chairman, saw his pay jump from £3,000 to £71,000. The biggest rise — 33 per cent to £51,000 — went to David Barnes, the chief executive. — Tony May

#### UK world trade share down

BRITAIN will need to boost exports by £40 billion a year by the year 2000 just to prevent its share of world trade declining further, says the National Audit Office in a report published today.

The country's share of global trade has declined by 6 per cent — from 3.2 per cent to 4.9 per cent — over the last five years as the "tiger economies" take a larger share. The report by Parliament's financial watchdog praises the Foreign Office and the Department of Trade and Industry for trying to reverse this trend in Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand and Indonesia by promoting British companies to gain £245 million in orders. — David Henckes

#### Names reject £2.8bn offer

LLOYD'S of London's £2.8 billion out-of-court settlement offer to disgruntled investors has been rejected by nearly two-thirds of the 1,600-odd Gooda Walker Action Group, one of the largest and most influential groups of Names. Votes are still being returned, but action-group chairman Michael Deeny said: "There is a clear majority against the offer."

It is thought the Lloyd's governing body is holding a series of meetings to persuade auditors to join in the settlement rather than face court action by Names. A figure of £150 million has been suggested as the auditors' contribution; were such a sum to be offered, the settlement would top £2 billion.

The Gooda Walker vote is based on the £2.8 billion figure. Mr Deeny said: "The litigating Names are being offered much less than they can recover through the courts. The litigation settlement fund must be increased." — Dan Ackinson

#### Liberty heads for shake-up

THE Liberty store group, known for its prints and fabrics, warned that profits would be down from £3.6 million to £2.1 million for 1995-96 and announced plans for a radical overhaul.

Patrick Auster resigned as chief executive and director and named his replacement as Ian Thomson, a former director of retailer Sears. Chairman Denis Cassidy said a strategic review would revitalise the Liberty brand internationally and develop retailing at its Regent Street store. The accounts would bear a charge for "substantial exceptional provisions".

Recent years have seen attempts to modernise Liberty, which was founded as a family business in 1875 and until a year ago still had members of the family on the board. Shares in the company fell 28p to 275p after the group said it did not intend paying a final dividend, but recovered to 300p. — Tony May

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Samsung Electronics, 200, 240, 260, 280, 300, 320, 340, 360, 380, 400, 420, 440, 460, 480, 500, 520, 540, 560, 580, 600, 620, 640, 660, 680, 700, 720, 740, 760, 780, 800, 820, 840, 860, 880, 900, 920, 940, 960, 980, 1000

صوتنا من الاجل

صوتك من الامم

The Guardian Wednesday April 3 1996

Racing Star Rage a work-horse flat or jumps

Ken Oliver
IF HORSES had to pass MOT tests after so many races, Star Rage would have more certificates than most of his rivals. With 17 flat outings on the clock since last June, Jimmy Harris's gelding runs for the tenth time this year...

Motor Racing Alan Henry on a Scot who laid the foundations for Benetton's back-to-back world titles and wants to do the same for his own team

Arrows look to their £6m man



Master of all he surveys... Walkinshaw brings his expertise to a third F1 team

BACK in the summer of 1988, Jackie Stewart was driving one of his fellow Scot Tom Walkinshaw's Jaguar V12 sports cars at Silverstone as part of a series of track tests. Stewart had barely completed two laps when he dropped the car over the kerb on the exit of the fast Woodcote corner...

"TWR's main business is obviously in the motor industry, and engineering in the automotive sector. That has to be our first priority, but our technology is displayed by our racing teams, and F1 is of primary importance to us as a marketing tool. We don't see it as a profit centre, it is a performance centre for the entire TWR group."

Ascot National Hunt card with TV form

Table of racing results and TV form for Ascot National Hunt, including race numbers, names, and TV channels.

Ludlow (N.H.)

Table of racing results and TV form for Ludlow National Hunt, including race numbers, names, and TV channels.

Hamilton

Table of racing results and TV form for Hamilton National Hunt, including race numbers, names, and TV channels.

Results

Table of racing results for various events, including race numbers, names, and TV channels.

Advertisement for 'Slavery divides G7 jobs summit' with a large image of a person's face.

Advertisement for 'Haggas tonic' featuring William Haggas and a 'RACELINE' logo with a grid of numbers.

Soccer

New injury setback for Anderton

Martin Thorpe

TOTTENHAM'S England winger Darren Anderton has suffered a further setback in his quest to play in this summer's European Championship.

The 24-year-old forward, who has been out of the Spurs first team virtually all season after two groin operations, made a comeback for the reserves last Wednesday but after training on Monday the injury played up again. He was due to play for the reserves at West Ham last night but was withdrawn.

It is another setback for a player who has already made one abortive comeback this season. He was also reported to be suffering from depression over the injury and the days of inactivity.

England's coach Terry Venables said at the weekend that he would leave the door open for Anderton to make a late claim for a European Championship place.

Manchester United revealed yesterday that they took action some time ago against supporters who appeared on the Football Association's

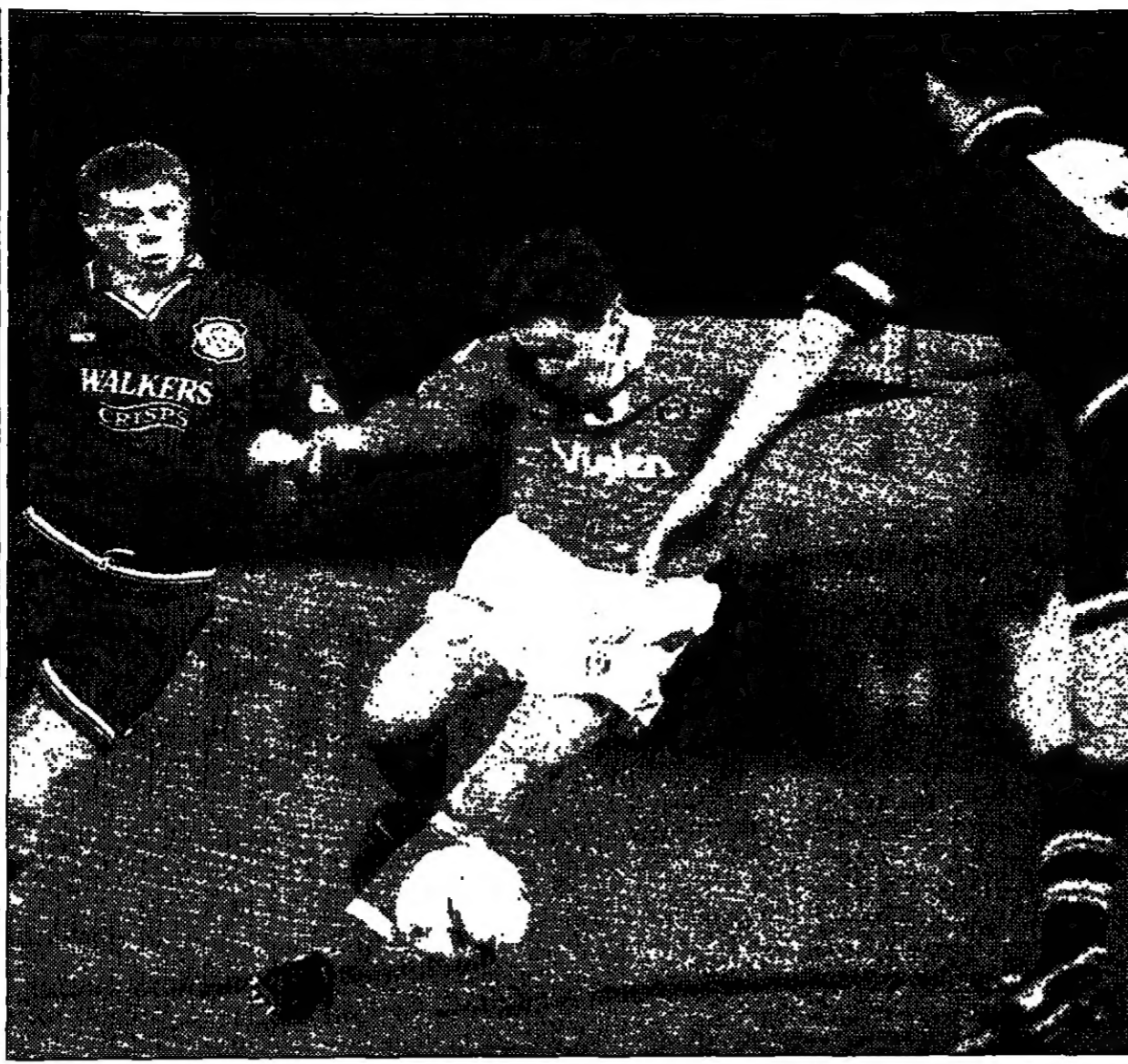
Cup final blacklist. Thirteen people connected with the names listed as the stiffest penalties so far were imposed on those who sold tickets for last season's match at a profit.

The FA banned the guilty parties from receiving further tickets for up to 20 years, but United's secretary Ken Merritt said: "We were made aware of these people immediately after the final and took the necessary action to withdraw whatever facilities they had with United."

Tomas Broin has apologised to the Leeds manager Howard Wilkinson for an April Fool's Day prank which backfired.

The £4.5 million signing, whose future at Elland Road is already in doubt, told Swedish television that he was going to play out the season on loan to Norkkoping. It was meant as a joke but the interview was picked up by news agencies and relayed around the world — much to the player's embarrassment.

Wilkinson said: "Tomas has apologised to me and will apologise to our chairman and managing director in person."



Valley of despair... Shaun Newton and Charlton could find no way through against Leicester

First Division

Crystal Palace 2, Port Vale 2

Vale find Foyle for Freedman

Robert Pryce

CRYSTAL PALACE showed they have more ability than most in this division but found out that class does not always tell. After taking a 2-0 lead they somehow gave away two second-half goals and a point to a Port Vale team that hardly qualified as workmanlike. With Derby beaten at Ipswich their only chance to go second on goals scored — on a night when the leaders Sunderland were held 3-3 at bottom club Watford.

Palace won 4-1 at Millwall on Saturday without their three leading league scorers. Last night they dropped a left-back to bring back Freedman, which suggested that Harry Basset wanted more than four goals or that he was asking for trouble.

The first option looked more viable and they sounded enough alarms in the Vale defence in the first five minutes to suggest an avalanche was on its way.

Palace's rise up the table has been aided by some friendly bounces and they had not used up all their good fortune yet. In the 24th minute Musselwhite rushed from his goal with the intention of terminating another Palace incursion on the right but comically missed his kick. Freedman, presented with a ball and an open net, introduced one to the other.

Palace won seven corners in the first half hour and the last almost brought them another goal. Nduha's inswinging induced panic in the Vale goalmouth and Davis looped a shot against the bar.

Vale lifted the siege on a couple of occasions but soon found themselves two down to yet another right wing move. Houghton exchanged passes with Hopkin before crossing and Freedman flew in to head his 17th goal of the season.

Though Vale found some extra spirit during the interval their first goal still came out of the blue. McCarthy cut inside to the edge of the area, where he appeared to have run out of options, until he struck a low shot sweetly into Martyn's left-hand corner.

Then in the 74th minute Guppy crossed from the left and Foyle flicked a headed equaliser over Martyn. Crystal Palace: Martyn, Hopkin, Edward Roberts, Davon Brown, Veart, Paul Vetter, Musselwhite, Hill, Aspin, Githens, Slone, McCarthy, Hoyle, Porter, Guppy, Foyle, Nayler. Referee: A. Suter (Bristol-Ashfield).

Charlton 0, Leicester City 1

Claridge shows true worth

Martin Thorpe

AFTER a weekend of turmoil, Leicester answered their critics by putting themselves back in the play-off frame last night. Charlton's own promotion ambitions could have done without their first defeat in five league games but luck was not with them, as they saw two chances cleared off the line.

The contrast between these two clubs could hardly be starker: whereas peace and goodwill have been in residence at The Valley after all the problems Charlton encountered getting back there, Leicester's home defeat by Sheffield United last Saturday was climaxed by a sit-in by 300 disgruntled supporters.

It was sparked by the team's results — only three

wins in 18 games under the latest manager Martin O'Neill — the sale of players, lack of investment and the less-than-stellar playing style.

A 13-strong delegation of supporters was eventually allowed in to talk things through with board and manager, a sign of the directors' concern at fan disillusionment after the departure of the previous two men in charge, Brian Little and Mark McGhee, for more ambitious clubs.

Whatever went on at Filbert Street in the preceding days, Leicester were certainly a team stirred up last night, spending most of the first half bearing down on the jittery Charlton goalkeeper Petteerson and rightly going ahead on 31 minutes.

Claridge rounded Whyte and, from just inside the area, bent a right-foot shot round

Petteerson for his first Leicester goal since his £1.2 million move from Birmingham.

Charlton might point out to those disgruntled Leicester fans that £1.2 million is quite an investment. Charlton's transfer deadline-day purchase of the QPR striker Bradley Allen for £400,000 doubled their entire transfer outlay for the previous four years.

But, though he scored the winner on his debut last Saturday, he was anonymous for the first half last night, with Charlton's best, and really only effort of a poor 45 minutes for them, coming from a free kick.

His young side were just being overwhelmed by Leicester's might and fight. Not surprisingly the home side emerged from the interval with more purpose but they applied it too frenetically at first, as passes went astray

and movements broke down for want of a clear head and calm vision.

Leicester took advantage after 68 minutes and nearly extended their lead. Heskey forcing a save from Petteerson before Walsh headed over from the corner.

But slowly Charlton settled down and twice came within inches of equalising. On 60 minutes the half-time substitute David Whyte chipped at an open goal, only for Walsh to hurdle back and hook the ball off the line. Eight minutes later Poole launched himself horizontally to block Allen's shot, and from the corner Whitlow, on the Leicester line, headed over Rufus's head.

Charlton: Petteerson, Jackson, Rata, C Whyte, Burgess, Newman, Bayliff, Mortimer, Robinson, Leburn, Allen, Leake, Gray, Poole, Grayson, Watts, Walsh, Whitlow, Taylor, Parker, Lemson, Higgins, Clarke, Roberts. Referee: D Orr (Ipswich).

Sport in brief

Chess

The 21-year-old Bulgarian Veselin Topalov shared the Amsterdam Grandmasters first prize with the world No. 1 Garry Kasparov when both won their concluding games, writes Leonard Barden. Nigel Short had one of his best results in sharing third prize, beating Topalov and missing a clear win against Kasparov.

Hockey

Next week's pre-Olympic tournament goes ahead for Britain's men as the rains in the belated relaying of the venue pitch at Morris Rowley University, writes Pat Rowley. Clifton and Doncaster, two clubs who have never reached the final of a national event, have avoided each other in the AEWHA Cup semi-finals. AEWHA cups semi-finals draw to be played May 21. Clifton and Doncaster to watch.

Results

Soccer

ENDSLEIGH LEAGUE

First Division: Barnetley (1) 2, Potters Bar (1) 2, Potters Bar (1) 2, Potters Bar (1) 2, Potters Bar (1) 2.

Second Division

Stockport (0) 1, Stockport (0) 1, Stockport (0) 1, Stockport (0) 1, Stockport (0) 1.

Third Division

Barnet (1) 2, Barnet (1) 2, Barnet (1) 2, Barnet (1) 2, Barnet (1) 2.

Baseball

San Francisco (0) 10, San Francisco (0) 10, San Francisco (0) 10, San Francisco (0) 10, San Francisco (0) 10.

Tennis

Andre Agassi (USA) 6-3, Andre Agassi (USA) 6-3, Andre Agassi (USA) 6-3, Andre Agassi (USA) 6-3, Andre Agassi (USA) 6-3.

Cricket

Sheff Wednes (1) 2, Sheff Wednes (1) 2, Sheff Wednes (1) 2, Sheff Wednes (1) 2, Sheff Wednes (1) 2.

Snooker

John Higgins (SCO) 5-3, John Higgins (SCO) 5-3, John Higgins (SCO) 5-3, John Higgins (SCO) 5-3, John Higgins (SCO) 5-3.

Squash

John Part (SCO) 3-2, John Part (SCO) 3-2, John Part (SCO) 3-2, John Part (SCO) 3-2, John Part (SCO) 3-2.

Baseball

San Francisco (0) 10, San Francisco (0) 10, San Francisco (0) 10, San Francisco (0) 10, San Francisco (0) 10.

Baseball

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Baseball

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Baseball

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Teamtalk: The Independent News and Reports Service. Call 0891 33 77+. Includes a list of sports news items for various teams and events.

Baseball: Results for various leagues including National League, American League, and International League. Lists teams, scores, and key players.

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Advertisement for 'Sport' magazine, featuring the title 'Sport' and the Guardian logo. Includes contact information and a list of sports news items.

in back... diff flo... market...

Handwritten Arabic text: صكرا من الال

صدا من الامل

Rugby Union

Twin backing for Cardiff flotation

David Plummer
CARDIFF have been given permission by the Welsh Rugby Union to become a public limited company.

we will not be making a decision until the end of the month. No Welsh club has gone down the plc road and I think some English clubs have moved too quickly and inflated the transfer market.

tional half-backs, Adrian Davies and Andy Moore, to Richmond. Ironically, Cardiff's chief executive, visiting Richmond today to see how they have managed since Levett's takeover last month.

Clubs step uneasily into market-place

Robert Armstrong on the can of worms that will be opened in England next month when a transfer system begins operating

ENGLISH club rugby is little more than a month away from a state of ferment. On May 7, three days after the country's leading sides Leicester and Bath meet in the Pilkington Cup final at Twickenham, players will be allowed to transfer and play for their new club seven days later, and the potential for conflict is enormous.

theoretical valuation on each member of the England squad which saw Johnson head the list at £200,000, Will Carling £100,000 and Ben Clarke a surprisingly modest £50,000.

receives less for a player by excluding him from a share of the fee than it would if all the cards were placed on the table at the start of negotiations.



Frozen smile... Desmond Haynes is relishing the challenge of coaching a county who have never won the championship

Sussex quickly warm to Haynes

Paul Weaver sees the under-achieving county welcome their new coach to Hove

CRICKET in April has always been Michael Fish's little joke, and at the Sussex County Ground yesterday, as a breeze knifed in from the Ukraine, Desmond Haynes, cold and bewildered, rather resembled one of those misdirected pieces of luggage that have set off for Bridgestown with good intention and ended up in Brighton.

over the country. England, in England, are still difficult to beat but they must be more consistent with their selections.

players, was totally converted and is still effectively grateful for the help Haynes gave him. As a player Haynes was a key factor in the county's championship win the next year when he scored 2,036 runs in the competition, and again when they won the title in 1993. There are many at Hove who would like to see him coaching the batting for Sussex this year.

season when I shall miss not playing. I have just finished playing in South Africa and return to Cape Town for a final season next winter. This summer I will be relying on Mike Gatting, Alan Wells and Dermot Reeve to get me involved in benefit games.

England last year. "There are still one or two issues in the pipeline," he says with a mischievous smile.

Caddick finds new spring in his step

David Foot on a resurgence of spirit in Somerset

SURELY you remember Andy Caddick: it was not so long ago that he arrived at Taunton, a towering beanie of a fast bowler from New Zealand.

Some said he was a dead ringer for his hero, Richard Hadlee. In Somerset he was seen as the best, most uncomplicated new-ball man since Arthur Wellard.

month remedial programme of road-work, swimming, rowing, specific exercises and daily challenges on the treadmill.

have recruited a further fast bowler as back-up: Kevin Shine arrives after eight years with Hampshire and two with Middlesex.

"I'm learning to swing the ball more. I came down during the winter for Bob Cotnam to have a look at me and now I've got a one-year contract. It's up to me."

Irish offered £44,000 to stay

Karl Johnston
IN A move as swift as it was unexpected, the Irish Rugby Football Union has announced a plan designed to keep its top players at home next season by making them offers they should find difficult to refuse.

Poplewell and Jonathan Bell, and several others have been approached by English clubs, notably Paul Wallace, Anthony Foley, Eddie Halsey, David Corkery and Neil Francis.

ment for appearing in the Heineken European Cup. But a contracted player who also made the national squad next season could realistically expect to make about £44,000.

Rugby League Orrell join hunt for Botica

IAN MALLIN
FRANCO BOTICA, the former All Black, is set to become the first Super League player to sign for a rugby union club, but Moseley, for whom the Castleford fly-half agreed to sign yesterday afternoon, now faces competition from Orrell.

Peter Williams said last night: "We're hoping that factor might persuade him to join us. We have offered Franco a substantial package. He's got a magnificent track record and would be just the man to bring on some of our younger players."

Squash Nicol falls at the first again

Richard Jago in Cardiff
THE hoodoo that has seen the national champion Peter Nicol fail to win one match at the British Open emerged again yesterday as the young Scot fell at the first hurdle for the fourth successive year.

Nicol had a five-point lead in the fifth game with Johnson apparently firing. "I certainly thought I had got out of it," he said. "Perhaps that's one reason I lost. I don't feel I have a mental block with this tournament, though I did feel extremely tired just before the end."

across court, late, and then he was flapping at it," said the 23-year-old former British junior champion on Edith Jones who thus made Jansher's task easier in the top of the draw.

Snooker Higgins eases his name back into the frame

Clive Everton in Plymouth
JOHN HIGGINS, the winner of two of this season's eight ranking-events but only two matches in his last three tournaments, yesterday got a desperately needed confidence boost while defending his British Open title.

making too many unforced errors in a 5-1 win that puts him into the last 32.

in that quality and is currently enjoying his best season since winning the 1991 world and UK titles.

Tennis Time for Maleeva to enjoy twin celebration

MAGDALENA MALEEVA marked her 21st birthday with a patient victory as the US clay-court season started with the Family Circle Cup at Hilton Head, South Carolina.

Her tactic of slowing down play and waiting for chances to attack paid off, especially in the first set.

Maleeva clearly intended to celebrate her birthday without worrying about her age in a South Carolina bar.

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The man who bought an F1 team, page 13  
New home for Desmond Haynes, page 15

Another setback for Darren Anderton, page 14  
Cardiff rugby club goes public, page 15

# SportsGuardian

## BOAT RACE COUNTDOWN: OXFORD LEAVE THE OLD BLUES TRAILING



Seniors in the slipstream... Oxford's Old Blues, pictured here at Hammersmith Bridge, were second best to the Boat Race crew yesterday, writes Christopher Dodd. The Old Blues, with the Olympic and world champions Jonny Searle (No. 5) and Matthew Pinsent (No. 6), were trounced in a three-minute dash from below Barnes Bridge to Chiswick on the evening ebb. The Boat Race crew maintained a high rating on the outside of the bend and were a length ahead when the boats stopped.

## Freddie's luck defies all but virtual reality



Vincent Hanna

LET no one tell you that golf is fun — not real golf. Golf is about misery, bondage, and humiliation. Golf is the siren who turns your head, then runs off with your accountant. I have suffered. I missed a two by a whisker at the 17th in the Players Championship at Sawgrass at the weekend, otherwise I'd have been in contention. Not only that, Colin Montgomerie would have won if he had listened to my advice. You think I'm joking. Wipe that smirk off your face and pay attention. In 1978 Deane Beman, the then United States golf commissioner, bought a swamp at Ponte Vedra near Jacksonville for \$1. He moved the PGA Tour there and hired Pete Dye — the Torquemada of golf architects — to build Sawgrass. Since 1982 it has hosted the Players Championship. Sawgrass offers spectators a wonderful view of great shots and fiendish suffering. There is water everywhere, with trees and swamps. Alligators frolic in the bunks. At the 17th you pitch 137 yards on to a minute island. Easy enough (it says here) when it is calm, unplayable when breezy. But as Pete says: "Golf is not meant to be fair. Why not drive the players a little crazy?"

pro mode it is a great challenge. It makes visits to the shed seem almost energetic. On Sunday I placed the computer beside the television, duplicated the conditions (rain and overcast) and played the last round against Couples and Montgomerie. Come with me to the 16th hole, 497 yards with a narrow green bordered on three sides by water. Couples is on the tee, he is 15 under par. Behind him are Montgomerie and Toller both on 16 under. Our drives draw round the palm trees to the left centre of the fairway. I hit a four-wood to the fringe. Couples fades a two-iron at the centre of the green. He overdoes it and the ball slides towards the lake on the right. "I thought it was in the water for sure," he said later. Then the ball kicks off the very edge of the bunk and jumps backwards to the fringe. "Luck," Walter Hagen remarked, "is the residue of careful planning." Which it may be, unless it's a sheer bloody fluke. The same thing had happened to Couples at the 11th at Augusta when he won the Masters in 1952. He just shrugs, looks to heaven, and holes the 25-foot putt for an eagle. I take four, then miss a long putt at the 17th. Freddie sinks another one for a two. He is 18 under par. Beat that Monty. Colin's drive at 16 is to the right of Freddie's, 234 yards to the flag. "I heard the roar for Freddie's eagle and knew I had to go for the shot," he said later. Using his cut-down three-wood he too hits a high fade. Like Couples it is too far right. But he lands in the water. And the tournament was over.

## Bruno still hoping to fight Lewis again

Kevin Mitchell on the possibility of a grudge fight that keeps Britain's best-loved heavyweight dithering about his retirement

FRANK BRUNO yesterday indicated that a return fight with Lennox Lewis might persuade him to extend his career beyond his 35th birthday in November. It was a challenge not immediately greeted with enthusiasm by Lewis's financial backer Panos Eliades, who responded: "How many chances does this man want?" It is a spreading sentiment in the business. When Bruno lost his World Boxing Council heavyweight title to Mike Ty-

nised. "How I'm going to keep myself occupied, what I'm going to do when I get up in the morning". He would, he said, discuss it with his wife and manager Laura, and added: "Obviously no wife wants to see her husband beaten up." Bruno said he had been in no position to accept a previous offer of \$9 million from Eliades to fight Lewis because he had signed for the Tyson fight before he beat Oliver McCall last September. "Now, however, I would love to fight Lewis," he said. "I would have liked to defend my title against him. At the end of the day it would have been a bigger-money fight against Tyson, but I had to fight Tyson. But I would still love to fight Lennox Lewis. I got a sort of grudge against him. It started from when he came over from Canada." Eliades says the only opportunity for a fight is if Tyson relinquishes his WBC title to avoid fighting Lewis. "Then the WBC would order the Nos. 1 and 2 contenders to fight for the vacant title." The WBC releases its new rankings next week. With Tyson as champion, Lewis will remain at No. 1 and Bruno will be slotted in somewhere in the top five, perhaps behind Britain's Henry Akintunde (currently No. 3) and McCall, both of whom have remained active. Las Vegas, Bruno revealed, had been a "nightmare" as he was receiving writs from Lewis's people while preparing for Tyson and there were several other "obstacles", although none on which he would elaborate. He denied being "terrified" against Tyson. "I was focused," he said. "Ta' not ter-



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## Sri Lanka back on the rampage

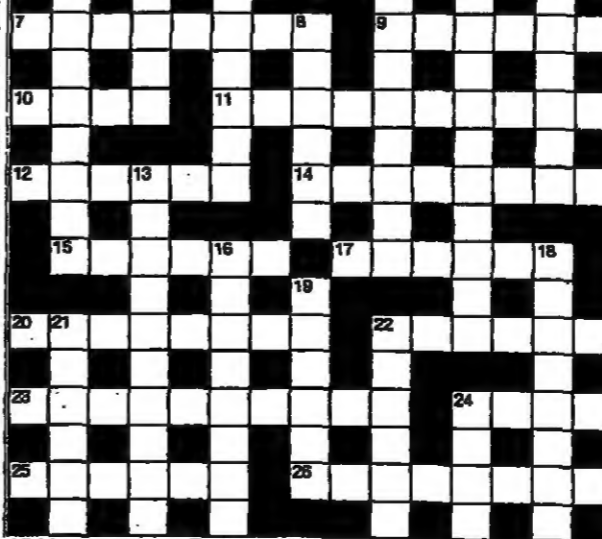
Neil Robinson  
SRI LANKA continued their assault on cricket's status quo yesterday by rewriting a raft of international one-day records in the unlikely outpost of Singapore. Sanath Jayasuriya led the charge by hitting the fastest one-day international century, from 49 balls in a Singer Cup match against Pakistan. The previous record of 62 balls was set by India's Mohammad Azharuddin. The diminutive opener, who starred in Sri Lanka's recent World Cup victory, was eventually out for 134 off 65 balls. His 11 sixes, many of which soared out of the compact Padang ground, broke Gordon Greenidge's record for the highest number in an international. He also struck 11 fours. Yet another record came when Jayasuriya hit four successive sixes off Pakistan's captain Aamir Sohail in an over which yielded 30 runs — the most expensive in an international. Jayasuriya, whose innings earned him the \$1,600 Man of the Match award, said later that he only learned of his place in history when he returned to the Sri Lanka changing room. "I only knew I had broken the records after I heard the announcement. "We needed a big score on a small ground. I played my normal game and got runs. I saw the ball early today. I believed in myself." Sri Lanka reached 349 for nine from 50 overs. Pakistan contributed to the run glut by posting 315 from their 50 overs. The 664-run aggregate established a fourth world record as the highest in an international.

If Karl Marx had been able to visit Peter York's retro-fitting workshop, to kit himself out with a few soundbites and a wardrobe of Next suits, his ideology might be flourishing now. Francis Wheen

G2 page 5

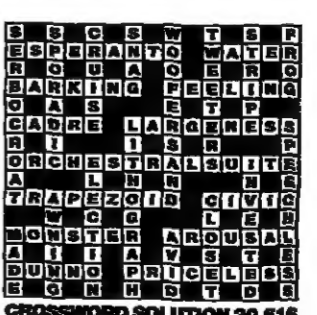
## Guardian Crossword No 20,617

Set by Orlando



Hidden Anagrams: Each clue is in two parts, which do not overlap. One part provides a definition, the other contains in reverse a mixture of the required letters. Either part may come first. Punctuation should be ignored. For example, 'Bats bedevil mad air force officer' gives the solution ADMIRAL, defined by officer and anagrammed by 'I mad air'.

- Across: 7 Flat and hilly country (6); 9 One who delivers speeches to Rotary Clubs (6); 10 Bird providing alternative to airline (4); 11 Writers with absent brother (3,7); 12 English composer? Hotel? No, Lewis (8); 14 Kingfisher and kestrel and any other bird (8); 15 Cast with no written script (6); 17 Quest for the scarlet woman (4); 20 Recklessly determined to make Liza Hall be the heroine (4-4); 22 Cast off clothing that is now dirty (6); 23 Freight carrier not taking to road system (5,5); 24 A one-legged pirate is a fearless person (4); 25 A girl who displays virtuosity (6); 26 Bird that reads Huckleberry Finn (8).
- Down: 1 A bird with a nest partly built (5); 2 Waterfowl like Shakespeare (4); 3 Bird slain by ancient mariner (6); 4 Bird that is caged or



CROSSWORD SOLUTION 20,616

- prisoner serving time in jail (6); 5 Early singing by thrush and crow (4,6); 6 Garden moles dig their own grave (6); 8 Very dark and gloomy (6); 13 Bird that has always represented true love (5,4); 16 A water hen is a bird (6); 18 A bird which fanciers fancy (6); 19 Careless talk heard in snatches (6); 21 Character whose name appears in the title above on my puzzle (6); 22 A stupid person employed knowing nothing (6); 24 Bird — dead duck — and doornail (4).

Solution tomorrow

Stuck? Then call our solutions line on 0800 333 238. Calls cost 30p per min, cheap rate, 49p per min at all other times. Service supplied by ATS.

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